



Zisbaktokégises / April 2017

Top Photo: Wadasé spreads her wings during a short trip to the CPN Eagle Aviary in 2016. Shawnee, Oklahoma.

#### Wadasé's four years in the wild



Wadasé Zabwé has lived four years in the wild after being released from the CPN Eagle Aviary. This is her story.

#### Special Insert

#### Meet your District 3 candidates



A look at the backgrounds of Robert Whistler and Jahn Eric Humphreys, candidates for District 3.

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# 'Historic day' as Chairman Barrett signs Iron Horse LLC agreement

With Vice-Chairman Linda Capps and Director of Economic Development and Planning James C. Collard Ph.D. standing alongside, Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett signed what he termed "a historic piece of the tribe's commercial history" into effect on March 8, 2017. Iron Horse TransLoad Company LLC will provide peace of mind, with a solid legal structure, for potential customers and investors who work at the tribe's Iron Horse Industrial Park.

"This agreement is central to CPN's operation of Iron Horse Industrial Park to secure solid, fair partnerships between the tribe and our future tenants in the park," said Barrett.

Limited liability corporations, or LLCs, are distinct legal entities that help protect owners from extensive liabilities, making only specific assets available as liabilities should the worst happen. For instance, should a bankruptcy or other financial downturn impact an LLC, the owners' liability to creditors or other parties in litigation is limited to the original, agreed on set of assets.

"The formation of this LLC means, in practical terms, only the funds the tribe puts into Iron Horse are assets," explained Collard. "The liability of the tribe's entire revenue from other streams and resources is not available outside of what we've put into Iron Horse."

Iron Horse is a general-use industrial park located on the national rail net-



Iron Horse Industrial Park will soon be open for tenants using the A-OK Railroad.

work of the United States. Its central location on 400 acres of Native American trust land just 35 minutes southeast of Oklahoma City and direct connections to the Union Pacific Rail Road provides great potential for importers and exporters alike. The agreement to put track throughout the park was signed off at the end of 2015. Through the use of the federal HEARTH Act and the park's designation as a foreign-trade zone satellite site, Iron Horse has the potential to become one of the drivers of economic development and jobs in Pottawatomie County in the coming years.

It is a designated satellite site of Oklahoma City's Foreign Trade-

Zone 106, providing efficiencies in customs procedures. Iron Horse is ideal for businesses importing and warehousing, manufacturing or assembling with imported goods, as well as distribution centers.

Utilities at the park for potential clients will be developed on a case-by-case basis while building and infrastructure construction will be to international standards.

To learn more about Iron Horse Industrial Park, please visit [www.iron-horsecpn.com](http://www.iron-horsecpn.com) or call 888-396-6057.

# Tribal-owned KGFF Radio lauded by FCC Chair Pai for FM band

Pottawatomie County's oldest radio station, KGFF, has had a lot of milestones since it first went on the airwaves in 1930. Its most recent significant event was the September 2016 expansion to an FM band station, making KGFF available at 100.9 FM and 1450 AM.

Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai commented on the change, noting that more than 1,000 stations acquired FM translators in the past year alone.

"The stations benefitting from our initiative represent the diversity and localism found on the AM band. For

example, FM translators went to a Shawnee, Oklahoma station owned by the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, as well as a student-run station at the University of Colorado."

Chairman Pai elaborated on the significance of FM broadcasting for AM stations.

"The specifics of the rule change involve technical jargon that only broadcast engineers will probably understand," he wrote. "But the real-world impact of this order is simple: It will now be easier for AM stations to find suitable location for their FM translators. And that, in turn, will

make it easier for AM broadcasters to serve their local communities at night."

KGFF General Manager Mike Askins was understandably proud of the mention, having spearheaded months of preparations to secure the FM band.

"This makes me incredibly proud of what we've accomplished," he said. "The FM project has made a difference in our listenership and I'm hoping this is only the beginning of big-

*Continued on page 5*

# Indian offenders face different path through healing to wellness drug court

In a state where prison overcrowding has become an economic, criminal justice and political issue, the pendulum has swung in recent years as Oklahoma policy makers seek to halt overcrowding at state prisons. In December 2016, Oklahoma Department of Corrections Director Joe M. Allbaugh put it bluntly saying "We are beyond the tipping point. The staff and the public are at risk every day when we operate at this capacity. We are critically understaffed in facilities that weren't built to house inmates."

As a result, efforts at criminal justice reform and diverting non-violent offenders to drug rehabilitation and counseling efforts have grown in popularity. At Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the staff in several departments have partnered since 2014 to create a drug court aimed at helping misdemeanor offenders before they are locked up for long stretches. Thus far, it has had 15 participants in the program since its implementation.

The CPN Healing to Wellness Drug Court is responsible for misdemeanors only. Felonies are dealt with higher up in the criminal court food chain, making healing to wellness court participants a unique group who, in the eyes of the justice system, still have a chance to alter the path that led them to the courtroom.

"We are looking for people who are ready to change their lives," said CPN District Court Judge Phil Lujan, who oversees the program.

The staff members of the court come from various departments at the tribe, including Indian Child Welfare, Citizen Potawatomi Nation Behavioral Health, the district court and CPN Workforce and Social Services. They are also individuals who demonstrated in a recent court meeting a compassion and personal investment in those they supervise that might surprise outsiders.

When one court staff member noted that a participant had secured a job, an enthusiastic and almost unanimous "Yay!" went up from all the staffers, including the judge.

Should the healing to wellness court not exist, this same individual would have faced six months in the county correctional center for her offenses.

As part of the court's program, attendees are required to personally check in at the CPN District Court with healing to wellness court officials on a weekly basis, if not more frequently, depending on their progress in the program.

After the celebration of the an-



Judge Phil Lujan

nouncement that their client had found a job, the judge instructed the probation officer to find her a ride to her court check-in date, even if it fell during work hours.

"Let's solve her transportation issues so she can work," said the judge.

## Not a traditional court

Judge Phil Lujan has spent more than four decades in the courtroom and his affable demeanor gives way to contemplative assessments of the cases before him in the healing to wellness court. When staff report that a participant missed some court-mandated reporting requirements, he opened the floor to discussion.

The court doesn't operate in a typical fashion, with a judge up front and prosecutors and defendants at tables facing him or her. The healing to wellness court involves a group dynamic, resembling a board meeting more than a tribal court. The handful of court staffers, ranging from probation officers, counselors, case workers and attorneys, discuss whether the individual would receive sanctions for failing to meet the court's requirements.

Each staff member knew the offender on an almost personal level, including their work life, family situation and progress in the program thus far. Comparatively, the investment in terms of getting to know the offender and their life's specific circumstances was stark in comparison to what one would assume would take place in a more traditional courtroom.

While hoping for the best and doing their utmost to help those in their charge, the staff isn't a crowd that believes in leniency if it isn't earned. They've all seen enough to know when a participant is trying to get around the rules.

Prodded by the judge, the court's staff gave their views on the partic-

ipant's recent actions and recommendations moving forward. The vote on whether to level a sanction forcing the participant to wear an ankle monitor deadlocked in a tie. The judge laughed as he noted that passing judgement wasn't as easy as it looked.

"It is hard," said Nicki Skaggs, court case worker who was in on the discussion. "It's not fun."

Attorney Kelley Harris, who normally serves as a prosecutor in the CPN District Court, elaborated on why he opposed the ankle monitor. Harris explained that taking the path the participant had been on since joining the court nearly a year before, the infractions in this specific instance did not merit a sanction as severe as an ankle monitor. He elaborated, noting that the individual's work life would have been negatively impacted with a device attached to him.

"I thought that would be really detrimental. That would be more than just a sanction."

For Harris, who is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and an attorney in other tribal courts in the state, the ability to make these discernments on individual cases is important.

In the discussions on sanctions, the trained lawyers in the room who serve as defense attorney, prosecutor and judge during normal CPN District Court proceedings oppose the ankle tracking option.

"I think we know what the impact of these sanctions are long term (for this individual) and took that into account," he explained, noting that as a criminal prosecutor in another court setting, he wouldn't necessarily have that option available.

## One day at a time

According to the National Institutes of Health, recent advances in sci-

ence show that addiction is a brain disease that impacts specific parts of the brain and changes connections between neurons there. This includes changes to memory, learning, impulse control, stress reactivity and many other functions.

Participants are required to undergo substance abuse counseling and treatment as part of the program. For many, these are intractable challenges that require support and trained counseling professionals, and specifically for the CPN Healing to Wellness Court, tie in traditional Native American practices to help with this process.

The CPN Behavioral Health Program works closely with the healing to wellness court, with two licensed drug and alcohol counselors sitting as members of the court. The LADCs work with the court participants and monitor their sobriety, offering support where needed.

CPN Behavioral Health Director Dr. Glenna Stumblingbear-Riddle noted that despite studies affirming the NIH findings showing addiction is a disease or disorder requiring medical treatment in many cases, the stigma still remains that it is still a moral weakness.

Yet she was effusive of efforts like those of the CPN Healing to Wellness Court.

"Drug courts are effective and many people are able to go on and live out their dreams," she said.

Staying sober and adhering to the court's stipulations can be a challenge. Yet the requirements, schedule and structure do serve a higher purpose, helping participants form good habits that will help lead a substance free life. Though they may complete the healing to wellness court, the point of the program is to prepare them for the long and challenging road they'll face throughout their lives when the court isn't there.

The hope is that, as Judge Lujan noted, people in the court truly want to change their lives, and with support from the staff of the healing to wellness court, it must happen one day at a time for participants.

"In all psychological wars, it's never over," noted musician Bruce Springsteen in his 2016 biography. "There's just this day, this time, and a hesitant belief in your own ability to change. It is not an arena where the unsure should go looking for absolutes and there are no permanent victories."

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# CPN welcomes nine spring interns

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Department of Education started its internship program by first defining what a tribal intern would look like. The first semester the program was in place for summer of 2016, and there were nine interns who participated with an additional nine students in spring 2017.

The process starts by getting to know the student in order to place them in a department or project that would align with their career aspirations.

“By centralizing internship services, we have been able to offer creative internships in new departments,” CPN Department of Education Internship Coordinator Mindee Duffell said. “We are excited to be able to support students’ educational goals so that they will be ready to hit the ground running into a career.”

Three of the interns are tribal members who are taking advantage of CPN’s partnership with St. Gregory’s University. CPN Department of Education Intern Ethan Huff is pursuing a degree in business. Hailing from Alaska, Loralisa Summerhays is completing her degree in nursing from St. Gregory’s and secured an internship with CPN Health Services. Former Potawatomi Leadership Program participant and biology student Heath Steward is working on a project that he is very passionate about at the CPN Cultural Heritage Center.

“Working in the community garden is a good fit for me because I have

an interest in plant biology,” Steward said. “In my career I would like to address the problem of sustainability. The modern way of life is not a sustainable one and it is the only way of life that people in my generation have ever known. I am very happy to be able to participate in a program that addresses this problem head-on at CPN.”

Caleb Lee is another tribal member who chose to pursue an internship at CPN before starting law school in fall 2018. He earned a Bachelor of Science in criminology with a minor in communication – speech, along with a Master of Science in criminology, and a Master of Arts in sociology & psychology from Texas A&M. Lee plans to earn a J.D. to give back to the CPN by practicing Indian law and human rights.

“One day I hope to have the privilege to serve as an advocate for Native Americans,” Lee said. “I grew up in a small town in south Texas, so naturally, my involvement within the tribe has been handicapped in the sense that distance posed an issue, but now that I moved to Oklahoma, I have become heavily involved, and plan to continue doing so.”

CPN Public Information Department Intern Savannah Hurst is a student at the University of Oklahoma who plans on graduating this fall with a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences in journalism and a minor in communication.



Heath Steward, Loralisa Summerhays, Savannah Hurst and Caleb Lee

“There is never a dull day working for CPN because there is constantly a story to be told,” Hurst said. “Interning at CPN has been really beneficial, not only furthering my education, but by honing in on my strengths and equipping me with skills that will be expected of me by a future employer. I am able to get hands-on training from professionals while still having the freedoms and responsibilities to develop my own flavor of work.”

Additionally, Gordon Cooper Technology Center design students Courtney Carpenter, Lauren Hutson and Jeffrey Morehead are interning at FireLake Designs while Darian Towner secured a full-time case-worker position through her spring internship at the CPN House of Hope.

The ultimate goal for all interns is to leave with a better understanding of the tribe while gaining professional and educational experience that adequately prepares them for the workforce.

“I wish this kind of program would have been offered to me when I was younger,” Duffell said. “It really allows students to jumpstart their career by learning concrete job skills.”

CPN is currently accepting applications for interns during fall 2017. To apply, please email a current resume and cover letter to Mindee Duffell at [mduffell@potawatomi.org](mailto:mduffell@potawatomi.org) by the July 1 deadline.

## CPN Education update: April 2017

By Tesia Zientek, Director of the CPN Department of Education

### CPN Stoles

Last spring, the CPN Department of Education partnered with the CPN Public Information Department and FireLake Designs to develop a Citizen Potawatomi graduation stole for the first class of graduates receiving the Tribal Development Scholarship at St. Gregory’s University.

After a picture of the SGU graduates wearing the stoles was featured in the *Hownikan*, we received several requests to purchase a stole to wear at a graduation celebrations. This interest sparked a project to meet that need.

Since last summer, the CPN Department of Education has worked with FireLake Designs on an effort to manufacture a large number of these stoles for purchase. Every step of the way, we have made a concerted effort to include tribal member and department participation. The stoles, which are constructed in black satin by CPN tribal member Theresa Talbot, showcase a woodland-style floral design created by tribal member and CPN Graphic Artist Trey DeLona on

one side and the tribal seal on the other. CPN tribal enterprise FireLake Designs embroiders each stole.

The first set of these stoles is under construction now in hopes of being ready for purchase for the spring 2017 graduation cycle. We plan to charge a slight markup for each stole so that the profit can be added to the tribal scholarship fund, which supports so many of our tribal members in their educational endeavors. In this way, the students who purchase and wear the stole pay it forward by passing along an opportunity to the next generation of students.

We are excited about this project and will be sharing more information on how to purchase stoles in the coming weeks. To stay in the loop, please follow the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Facebook page. In addition, we will share order information via email to the students who have received the tribal scholarship recently. Finally, if you would like to be placed on a list to receive information about the stoles as it becomes available, please email [college@potawatomi.org](mailto:college@potawatomi.org).

If you would like to apply for scholarship or higher education counseling opportunities, please visit [portal.potawatomi.org](http://portal.potawatomi.org).

CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION  
GRADUATION STOLE | \$100



# OU, Citizen Potawatomi Nation partner to offer course on Native Americans in film

By Mitchell Willets,  
news reporter, OU Daily

Joshua Nelson remembers visiting his uncle's home as a kid and seeing American Indians on TV. Sometimes they were the real deal — actual Native American actors. Other times they were white faces hiding behind red paint. Either way, they would catch a bullet courtesy of John Wayne more often than not.

Still, the OU interim director of film and media studies wonders what it could have meant to see a Native American man like his uncle or a Cherokee boy like himself on the screen. He wanted to see something more than the silent sidekick or the dozens of whooping extras destined for the wrong side of some handsome cowboy's rifle. Always missing was a depth of character, a reason to invest, to feel and to believe.

"But I think what a difference it would have made if every time I went over there as a young person, loving movies the way I do ... if we'd have had stories where the Indians were the heroes. The Indians didn't die. The Indians were smart, were funny, were compassionate," Nelson said. "Who knows, maybe I would've been smarter, funnier and more compassionate or, more simply, felt like there was a place for me to tell stories like that."

Nelson said he believes the film industry has come a long way since those days, but misrepresentation and underrepresentation are both still very current problems. Native American perspectives and experiences are not being captured or shared. Nelson intends to combat this problem directly in the way educators so often do, by teaching.

This semester is the first to offer Nelson's new class, *Telling Native Stories*. His creation aims to put more Native Americans behind the camera, a position that many from Native American communities feel is not for them, Nelson said. He is putting thousands of dollars worth of gear in the hands of his students and is working to show them otherwise.

From screenwriting, to camerawork, lighting, audio, editing and eventually distribution, Nelson plans to arm his students with everything they need to express themselves through film.

The class's focus on Native-centric stories does not mean only Native American students should enroll — the class is inclusive, with a dozen members of both Native and

non-Native heritage. Nelson only asks that the work come from a place of authenticity and respect for Native American culture.

"The problem that I have seen is that in this state, with nearly the highest Native American population, we have practically zero media representation," Nelson said. "We have no room for those people to tell their stories, and so I want to carve out that room and I want to prepare people to tell those stories."

Brittany McKane, Native American studies and anthropology junior of Muscogee and Seminole descent, said she is not the Native American typically seen on TV — the living relic left over from a mythical past.

Most Native American depictions today may as well be props hauled in from a Hollywood warehouse — dusted off and decorated, camera ready, but with little substance, McKane said. When they speak, the thoughts of non-Natives Americans come out, she said.

"White characters have a backstory. They are seen as modern, complex human beings, but that same kind of personality isn't afforded to Native American characters," McKane said. "I think somebody who is Native, who has lived that and seen that kind of complexity within other Native people could be able to depict that better than somebody who hasn't."

McKane said she cannot see any piece of herself in these characters or find a place to stand in these stories.

"You don't ever see Indians with law degrees. You don't ever see Indians going to med school. Indians who are out there making a difference, you don't see it. That absolutely shapes the way the public sees us," McKane said. "We are such a small portion of the population that people don't really come into contact with us and all they see are those representations and those stereotypes."

Telling Native American stories has a broad goal, and to achieve it Nelson is looking outside of campus as well as toward the next generation of filmmakers.

"I'm old and past my prime," Nelson said. "I will never make the great American Indian movie, but maybe my students who are working on these kinds of stories will."

Thanks to a partnership between OU and the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Nelson will reach more than his own college-aged students with the class.



Professor Joshua Nelson teaches the *Telling Native Stories* film class.

Photo by Julia Harth, OU Daily.

Throughout the semester, Nelson's students will take several field trips to Potawatomi tribal lands to pair up one-on-one with high school students picked for their abilities or interests in film. Nelson wants to further encourage the passions of all involved, to exchange techniques and knowledge, and to impart whatever wisdom they may have gained along the way, he said.

Tesia Zientek, director of the Department of Education for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, is the other side of the partnership. Zientek provides the high schoolers, and Nelson provides the gear and his own recently trained students to mentor them, hoping they will continue to learn through the process of teaching.

Though Zientek received her diplomas and bona fides from Notre Dame and Stanford and could have put down roots anywhere, she felt a debt was owed. A duty and a love for her tribe brought her back home, back to Oklahoma.

She accredits her tribe and her upbringing for who she is and what she has achieved and said it simply would not feel right to take all the knowledge, skills and experience she has acquired elsewhere, like she has seen many others do.

"As far as tribes go, you see a lot of brain-drain happening, and I didn't want to be a part of that," Zientek said.

Zientek's help was needed to get Nelson's project up and running and to help coordinate things from the other side going forward. She did not need much convincing, she said.

Like McKane and Nelson, Zientek said she finds media depictions of

Native Americans lacking and, at times, outright harmful. Not only does it inform the way non-Natives see American Indians, she said, it affects the way Natives see who they are, what they are capable of and what is expected from them.

"If you are a white male in America and you turn on the TV, you're going to see a lot of different ways to be white and male," Zientek said. "You can see different versions, different possible selves. For Native Americans that's not the case."

The chance to help cultivate a culture and community of Native American filmmakers and visual storytellers is not an offer Zientek ever expected. There is a huge emphasis among Native Americans to give back to the tribe, she said, to contribute, to help it to grow and thrive. Media, film and the arts in general are not often thought of as being the most practical ways to do this, she said.

Zientek said she hopes Nelson's class is a success and highlights the benefits of artistic pursuits in the ways they can benefit a people that may not be immediately seen or felt.

This is uncharted territory for both OU and the Potawatomi. More than a class, Nelson wants to breathe new life into the longstanding tradition of Native American storytelling, and he thinks he's picked the right place and just the right people to do so.

"I have never in my decade of teaching felt a more palpable energy from a class than this one," Nelson said. "Every student in there is buzzing with readiness to get out there and start doing this kind of work."

*This article originally ran in OU Daily and has been reproduced here with its author's permission.*

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## **KGFF continued...**

ger and better things for KGFF and local radio."

Askins, who has been a DJ since the 1970s, worked through an often arduous and meticulous process to expand KGFF to the FM band. Since coming on air before the Great Depression, KGFF had been strictly an AM station. When Citizen Potawatomi Nation purchased the station 1998, it was done in part to support local radio for Pottawatomie County communities. Adding an FM signal was always part of the plan Askins noted, but it certainly wasn't an easy task.

In comments made right after the September 2016 switchover, Askins explained the process he'd just been through since December 2015.

"KGFF had to find an existing FM translator licensed within 250 miles of our broadcast site," he explained. "Once we found a viable license, we had to purchase it from the previous

owner; get FCC approval and hire FCC approved engineering services to calculate what frequencies might be available in our specific location."

Station staff, a contract engineer and an attorney with years of Federal Communications Commission experience then sought a translator for sale in the range of the new station, a tower site and a frequency that met FCC requirements.

Rain or shine, day or night, listeners for local news and programming can tune in to KGFF. The station's emphasis on locally-focused broadcasts, including community news and radio broadcasts of Shawnee High School and Oklahoma Baptist University Athletics, remains KGFF's concentration. In addition to broadcasting at 100.9 FM and 1450 AM, KGFF is also streaming local sports as well as The Mike in the Morning Show on weekdays from 7-9 a.m. and The Daily Stir at 12:45 p.m. on [www.kgff.com](http://www.kgff.com).



*Mike Askins*

## JUST ARRIVED

### NEW CPN LOGO PORTFOLIOS

If you're a professional, student, or CPN tribal member wanting to show your pride, this one's for you!



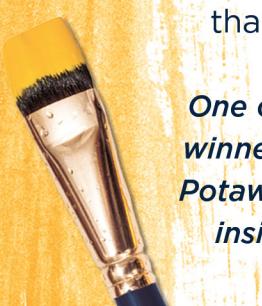
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## CPN Family Reunion ADULT ART CONTEST

At 2017 Family Festival,  
the art contest  
will be in two divisions:



### Professional

For artists who have been paid for their work in the medium that their submission is in.

*One overall prize awarded with winners chosen by a vote of the Potawatomi people taking place inside the foyer of FireLake Arena at Festival.*

### Amateur

Created by artists not paid for the piece or for other pieces made in the same medium.

*Winners decided by judge and three places will be awarded in each of the following categories:*

- 1 - Photography/Painting
- 2 - Other

# Garden tips for Oklahoma's spring planting season

Native American people have been 'organic' gardening from the start. In the past, there were no greenhouses or feed stores to pick up extra plants, so it was important to learn how to effectively produce crops for their families. Traditions and seeds are still being handed down from older generations and managed with great care. Recently, there has been an increase in Natives across the United States awakening traditional gardening techniques to multiply seeds that were almost extinct.

"As Native people, we know the proper way to care for the plants so that we sustain ourselves and the plants that give us life," said Andrew Gourd, Citizen Potawatomi Nation's assistant tribal historic preservation officer and community garden coordinator. "We understand that we have to honor these seeds and their purpose. They cannot be genetically engineered back to life or into more success. We must take care of what we have been given, or risk losing that medicine that has been given to us by our Creator."

Gourd has compiled a few tips for tribal members who are starting their own spring gardens. First, he suggests going to get your soil tested at the local county extension office, where you can find out if you are missing important trace elements. Liquid iron, Epson salts and potassium sulfate are all important miner-



*A garden's soil is one of the most important factors determining its success.*

als that plants need to thrive. These nutrients can be purchased and only need to be added once a year.

"When working up the productivity of your soil, increase the organic matter content of the soil," he said. "You can do this by mulching in fall leaves or old straw hay. Additives such as bone meal, blood meal or fish emulsion are also very effective organic fertilizers. In some soils that have a high clay content, mixing in sand will increase the permeability and allow water to get to the roots more efficiently."

In Oklahoma, good spring crops include garlic, onions, potatoes, strawberries and some herbs. Summer

crops are plants that thrive in the full heat of our Oklahoma summers, like gourds, squash, okra, tomatoes, melons, tobacco and various beans. These plants may not be phased by the heat, but they still drink a lot of water, so don't forget to water them.

If you want the most success with minimal effort, Gourd suggests it is best to use plants that are native, or acclimatized to your location. For instance, in Oklahoma, gardeners usually have great success with sweet potatoes since they have a longer growing season. However, certain plants that prefer colder climates may have a harder time in the southern states and will require more care and attention.

"In our wildflower growing project we are only using seeds gathered from central Oklahoma and not ordering from the online nurseries. In order to get a higher degree of success we are using varieties and species known to be native to this portion of the country."

Another approach that the CPN community garden is applying this spring, and one that Native people have been using for ages, is the three-sister's method. This method of planting utilizes mounds that contain seeds for three varieties of food plants. The mounded earth would help keep the roots of the plants from getting too soggy during heavy rains. By putting the corn, beans, and squash together, they get the best product from each plant due to their symbiosis. The corn stalks provide structure for the beans to climb, while the beans put nitrogen back in the soil and squash provide groundcover that prevents weeds from overtaking the plants. After everything is harvested, the plants should be hoed and mulched back into the earth to contribute to next year's soil.

If you are interested in getting involved with the CPN Community Garden, please visit [cpn.news/garden](http://cpn.news/garden).



## Wellness center "road race" competition won by Beep Beep Team of alphas

As part of Citizen Potawatomi Nation's preventative wellness efforts for tribal members and employees are annual fitness competitions held at FireLake Wellness Center. Typically coinciding with events like the men's NCAA Basketball Tournament or other high profile events, employees take on a fitness challenge at FireLake Wellness Center under the supervision of the personal trainers and staff there. On treadmills, ellipticals or walking the second story track, employees compete to log the most miles on the machines in a window of time, with winners receiving an award and recognition for their efforts.

The latest competition, "The Road To the Super Bowl," just wrapped up, with competitors logging the same amount of miles they would have if they'd have travelled from Shawnee, Oklahoma to Houston, Texas, the site of the National Football Championship Super Bowl.

The competition drew 64 FireLake Wellness Center members making up 16 teams. Teams of four members each logged 90 minutes per week, with their mileage con-



*Angie Dye, Steve Wilson, Sarah Lawerance and Victor Cope.*

firmed by the wellness center's staff. The "road race" began on November 21, 2016 and concluded February 11, 2017.

The top four teams were Beep Beep, FireLake Foxes, The Rejects and The Winners.

Eventual first place finishers Beep Beep led throughout the competition, completing the course on January 30.

Team members asked to be referred to as:

- Alpha Female - Angie Dye, who lost 100 pounds as a wellness center member

- Alpha Male - Steve Wilson and CPN HVAC director

- Alpha Trainer - Sarah Lawerance of FireLake Wellness Center

- Alpha Old Male - 65 year old Victor Cope, who lost 80 pounds as a wellness center member

The goal of the competition and

others like it is to get employees, tribal members and other FireLake Wellness Center attendees up and moving, with an emphasis on promoting positive health outcomes to mitigate the development of preventative health problems like diabetes and other ailments.

The Wellness Center is a 21,500 square foot facility housing the Title VI Elders Program, an exercise facility, walking track and the Diabetic Initiative Program. The exercise facility staff works with individuals to customize an exercise program that best fits their physical needs.

The gym includes treadmills, arc trainers, stationary bicycles, free weight dumbbells, a heated therapy pool, aerobics room and locker rooms for men and women equipped with showers and lockers.

The wellness center is open to Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal members and their spouses, employees of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and Native Americans of federally recognized tribes. Members must be 21 or older to join. To learn more call (405) 395-9304.

# Wildcats give back: Bethel STEM team supported by CPN

What started out as an after-school club for students has grown into a movement impacting a local high school and the environment as well.

Bethel High School's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Club, or STEM club, started out with a \$500 contribution from Citizen Potawatomi Nation. The students and advisers for the club have since turned that into more than \$20,000 in grants and scholarships for club participants.

"To see the opportunities and accomplishments my students have had in such a short time has left me amazed and inspired me as an educator," club advisor and science teacher at Bethel High School, Annie Keehn said.

The STEM club entered into the nationwide Lexus Eco Challenge, where they were judged on environmental projects that impacted their community.

Lexus Eco Challenge awards sixteen semi-finalists high school teams' prizes at \$10,000 each in two categories: land and water or air and climate. Of the 16 teams, two Bethel teams were selected this year, winning \$20,000 in grants and scholarships for college.

"Since winning the first two rounds of the Lexus Eco Challenge, the group's confidence and dedication has soared. The excitement contin-

ues to build as they approach their project deadline," Keehn said.

For the land and water category, ten high schoolers, "The Water Warriors", came up with alternative uses for wastewater and concentrated primarily on wastewater injection, a by-product of hydraulic fracturing.

In the air and climate category, nine high schoolers worked on decreasing air pollution by coming up with a school-wide "Carpool Day." The self-nicknamed "Energized Elite" sought to educate their fellow classmates on saving carbon emissions and encouraging the practice of carpooling to class.

"Both groups are working diligently to spread their ideas beyond our local community - to the state and national level," Keehn said.

The Water Warriors and Energized Elite will compete in the final round of the Lexus Eco Challenge in a race against 14 other teams from all over the nation for the grand prize of \$30,000 in grants and scholarships.

"They have set high expectations for themselves and they are working daily, not just in STEM class, but nights and weekends to make their families, school, community and state proud," Keehn said.

The two teams' projects will be due for judging on March 6 this year for the final round of competition.



*The Bethel Water Warriors.*



*The Bethel Energized Elite.*

## Sexual Assault Awareness Month begins with Start by Believing campaign

**By Darian Towner, CPN House of Hope Prevention Specialist**

April is Sexual Assault Awareness month, and in order to make a difference in our community, House of Hope Family Violence Program has made the pledge and joined the "Start by Believing" campaign, and we hope you will join as well. This global public awareness campaign is dedicated to transforming the way individuals respond to sexual assault, with the desire to see the cycle of silence among sexual assault survivors come to an end.

Sexual assault crimes remain underreported, but there is hope that if we can change our reactions to a survivor when they report their assault, more of these crimes will be reported. It is common for individuals who have been sexually assaulted to reach out and confide in a friend or family member, and knowing how to respond is critical; with just three simple words, "I be-



*Members of the CPN House of Hope, CPN District Court and FireLodge Tribal Youth and Family Services took the pledge.*

lieve you," we can make a great difference in the lives of survivors.

At Citizen Potawatomi Nation, there have already been numerous individuals who have joined us in taking the

According to the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, Native Americans currently have the greatest risk of sexual violence, but imagine the impact that could be made in our community if everyone would make this personal pledge that means we will believe our children, siblings, friends, teammates, classmates or coworkers if they come to us revealing they have been sexually assaulted.

If you would like more information on the Start by Believing campaign or if you would like to make the pledge yourself, you can visit [www.startbybelieving.org](http://www.startbybelieving.org). If you or someone you know has been sexually assaulted, please reach out and give us a call at House of Hope at (405) 275-3176 or visit us online at [www.facebook.com/cpnhouseofhope](http://www.facebook.com/cpnhouseofhope).

# Language with Justin: April 2017

By Justin Neely, Director of CPN Language Department

On February 22 the CPN Language Department hosted our fifth annual Winter Storytelling Event at the CPN Cultural Heritage Center. We had over 50 people in attendance. But what was truly unique is for the first time ever we streamed the storytelling event live on Facebook. Traditionally we believe that in the winter time the spirits and the earth is asleep and these stories should only be told during this time of year, so the live feed has been removed on the first day of spring to honor this tradition. We had almost 2,000 views of our winter storytelling live feed. We had tribal members join in from Louisiana, Texas, Missouri, Kansas, California, Florida, Washington D.C., Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Arizona, Oregon, throughout Oklahoma and even one from Canada. We really enjoy sharing these stories and were very pleased folks were able to join us from across the country and world.

As we move into April, our kids from the CPN Child Development Center will be competing in the annual Oklahoma Native Language Fair at the University of Oklahoma. The CDC students have managed to med-



*A bedroom picture from the kids' language course.*

al for the last several years so we are hopeful for another successful event.

We are always looking for ways to make the language accessible to tribal members throughout the country and world. We want to ensure that if you or your family wants the opportunity to learn Potawatomi they will have it. Currently we have two online courses available with a third to be introduced in August. To join the course go to [language.potawatomi.org](http://language.potawatomi.org). Once there you will need to create a new account and then wait for us to confirm it. Then each time

when you log in it will keep track of where you are in the course. It is designed with videos, short movie spoofs, cultural teachings and a wide variety of games, glossary and quizzes to help keep you engaged in the learning process.

This past fall, for the first time ever, we began offering beginner Potawatomi language classes I through a partnership with St. Gregory's University with the first five students completing the course for college credit. The cool thing is now students are able to

learn the language while furthering their own collegiate careers.

Also available is an online childrens' course available at [www.potawatomi.org/lang/resources](http://www.potawatomi.org/lang/resources).

This course is designed with kids in mind, so it is not as rigid as the adult courses, but allows them to explore a series of images and to open even more rooms with images that are connected to different videos which play songs, stories and learning videos.

Also accessible is an online Lexique Pro Potawatomi dictionary which can be downloaded on your computer. It can also be printed out in a book format. The current one has about 5,000 words which can be searched in a variety of ways such as English, Potawatomi, categorical and from the endings of the words. We are currently working on updating this dictionary and have about 10,000 words in our new version which we hope to introduce sometime this fall.

As you can see, we have a lot going on in the language department but if you ever need any help or assistance with the language please don't hesitate to contact us. We are always available to help out if we can.

*Migwetch.  
(Thank you)*

## RE-ELECT JOHN "ROCKY" BARRETT FOR TRIBAL CHAIRMAN



**FROM WHERE WE STARTED - TO WHERE WE ARE NOW.**

**KNOW WHERE WE ARE GOING WITH TIME-TESTED LEADERSHIP.**

**I ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT THIS JUNE FOR RE-ELECTION AS TRIBAL CHAIRMAN**

# Potawatomi Trail of Death featured in “Like Birds in a Wind Storm”

Since first taking the road in 1988, the Potawatomi Trail of Death Caravan has tried to give attendees a small sense of the extensive landscape covered by the Indian Potawatomi on the Trail of Death in 1838. Crossing four states on a forced march lead by American soldiers, the Potawatomi of the time traversed the still largely wild lands of Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri before their stop in Sugar Creek, Kansas.

There were few markers in 1988 to show the trail, but over the years descendants of the tribe as well as the Potawatomi Trail of Death Association have helped mark stopping points along the way. According to Potawatomi Trail of Death Association Treasurer and Fulton County Indiana Historian Shirley Willard, there are more than 80 historical markers and 150 historical highway signs along the trail, all paid for through donations by volunteers.

“I worked with the Potawatomi for more than 30 years to commemorate and mark the 1838 Trail of

Death from Indiana to Kansas. It is one of the best marked historic trails in the world,” said Willard in a press release.

Though less well known than the more famous Trail of Tears of the Cherokee Nation, the experiences of the Trail of Death are etched in the history of the tribe that is today known as the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. The deaths of 42 Potawatomi along the 660 mile forced march, which lasted two months in cold fall weather in 1838, remain poignant reminders of the lethal nature of the journey.

After the most recent caravan in 2013, Willard and other volunteer members of the Potawatomi Trail of Death Association, including many Citizen Potawatomi, began working with YourStory Digital Productions on a documentary commemorating its memory. Directed by Susan Green and narrated by Willard, the documentary reveals the story of the Potawatomi on the trail according to journal entries kept by participants and later recollections. The film also intersperses interviews with living



CPN Member Sister Virginia Pearl offers a blessing to one of the historical markers along the Trail of Death.

Citizen Potawatomi Nation members who were in attendance at the 2013 caravan ceremony which culminated in a stop at the former Sugar Creek reservation in eastern Kansas.

Descendants of the Trail of Death retrace their journey, discover long held memories from folks along the way and receive unexpected receptions as they stop at each original campsite. Potawatomi participants include Bill Wamego and family, George Godfrey, Sister Virginia Pearl, Bob Pearl, Jon Boursaw, Tom Hamilton, Susan Campbell, Tracy and Erin Locke, and others.

The documentary’s trailer can be viewed at [Facebook.com/Like-BirdsinaWindStorm](https://Facebook.com/Like-BirdsinaWindStorm).

The film is available for purchase by the public. To order a copy for \$15, send a check to Potawatomi Trail of Death Association, c/o Shirley Willard, 3063 S 425 E, Rochester IN 46975.

Libraries, schools and museums in Indiana are also set to receive free copies of the documentary while supplies last. To learn more about the Potawatomi Trail of Death, visit [www.potawatomi.org/culture/trail-of-death](http://www.potawatomi.org/culture/trail-of-death), [www.potawatomi-tda.org](http://www.potawatomi-tda.org) or [potawatomiheritage.org](http://potawatomiheritage.org).

## Congressman Steve Russell holds lively town hall at heritage center

Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s tribal complex falls inside Congressman Steve Russell’s district. The Oklahoma Fifth District representative needed a large venue for his recent town hall, as large numbers were expected to hear from the congressman and give their views on the issues emanating from the nation’s capital.

More than 300 attendees filed into the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center for the event, which though animated and lively at times, remained mostly civil throughout. Briefing the crowd before taking questions, Russell acknowledged though there were some there who disagreed with him, he hoped they could all find a middle ground to help the country succeed.

“If we tell people, ‘Gee, I hope President Obama fails or I hope President Trump fails, that’s like saying I hope the pilot of this airplane fails. ... I’m on this airplane.’ So we really have to take that into consideration.”

After several high profile instances of Republican congressional repre-



Congressman Steve Russell speaks at his town hall.

sentatives from around the country avoiding possibly hostile town halls due to the ongoing effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act and concerns about President Donald Trump, many of those who asked questions first thanked the former Army officer for hosting the event.

For those concerned about the more

popular provisions of the ACA, including the ban on insurance companies refusing to pay for treatment for pre-existing conditions, allowing dependents to stay on their parents’ insurance until 26 and prohibition on insurance companies setting limits due to catastrophic illness and injury coverage - Russell noted that most Americans, including President

Trump, were supportive of keeping the first, even after the law’s repeal.

“I believe most of America is in the same place you are when it comes to pre-existing conditions being wanted by the American public. Then it becomes a question of how do we pay for it and how do we construct it... He listed it as the number one thing. Both parties believe we need to keep the aspects of pre-existing condition.”

He emphasized that while he didn’t know enough about the details on catastrophic coverage post-ACA repeal, he did say that those under 27 who wanted to stay on their parents’ insurance should be able to do so if they were in school or learning a trade.

Despite numerous outbursts of many in the room to Russell’s responses, he stayed and spoke with several constituents after the meeting.

## ATTENTION CPN VOTERS

Absentee Ballot Request Cards have been mailed out to your last known address with the CPN Tribal Rolls Department. If you did not receive one you may request an absentee ballot by sending a letter with your name and address, tribal roll number and signature to:



CPN Election Commission  
PO Box 310  
Tecumseh, OK 74873

# Human Resources Director Richard Brown helped shape central Oklahoma workforce system

Most of Citizen Potawatomi Nation's 2,400 employees have dealt with the human resources department in one way or another. Whether through new hire orientation, seeking assistance about employment benefits or even to ask for counsel on workplace issues, tribal employees have a department that looks out for employees and their employer while adhering to tribal, federal and state employment statutes. Leading this department for more than a decade is CPN Human Resources Director Richard Brown.

Originally from Okmulgee, Oklahoma, Brown was a standout high school football player before going on to play at East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma.

Brown intended to keep athletics at the center of his professional career, graduating with a degree in education from East Central in 1982 before returning to Okmulgee. There he signed a contract to take a position teaching and coaching at his alma mater before another opportunity arose.

"Coming out of college, the state offered me a job paying more money (than teaching). I was getting married at the time and decided to take them up on that," recalled Brown.

He took the position with the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission after a chance meeting with the manager of its Okmulgee office. Brown had stopped by the office to speak to a friend employed there in the summer months before his teaching position began, and the manager recognized him from his time at ECU. He had officiated Brown's college football games, and after a discussion of his current plans, offered him a short term position to get him through the summer before school began.

Brown never made it to the classroom. Though he didn't go into coaching like initially planned, Brown did manage to stay connected to football. He has been a Big 12 football official for 23 years, and was even an official for the one season of the XFL.

Two years after starting with the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission, Brown was in a management position. Within a few years more, he had managed several offices across the region, from Okmulgee to Poteau to Norman before becom-

ing chief of employment services at the state capitol complex.

The Oklahoma Employment Security Commission was a creation of Great Depression-era Oklahoma, and according to Brown is the United States' largest labor pool of workers. Brown's initial years at the OESC were a baptism by fire for someone in his line of work, as the state suffered from high unemployment as the 1980s energy industry collapsed. Oklahomans of all skill and education levels found themselves out of work or underemployed. Brown recalled coming in to the office during those years and at 8 a.m. there would already be a line of people around the block hoping to find a job.

"White collar, entry level employees, whatever. Those people come in because they were out of work or underemployed, wanting better jobs or better opportunities for their families," said Brown. "We acted as that middle man that tried to match employers and employees."

The OESC also oversaw the state's unemployment insurance system, which Brown emphasized was often used, despite misconceptions about abuse, by people out of work through no fault of their own. He is also an advocate of the system, noting that the OESC offered many Oklahoma businesses human resource management services they were already paying as part of their state taxes. As he explained, the OESC's labor pool is so large and well catalogued that temporary employment agencies consult its candidates to fill their needs. Brown proudly notes that in his last year as chief employment officer for the state, more than 235,000 workers walked through the 41 satellite offices looking for work or unemployment assistance.

Brown served 22 years with the commission before moving on to take up positions in human resource management duties for the Workforce Investment Act System. After a stint there, he moved on to Citizen Potawatomi Nation, having become familiar with the tribe and its operations during his time with the workforce investment act system.

When he joined CPN in 2005 as director of human resources, it was an interesting time for the tribe and its approximately 500 employees. Tribal gaming had just been approved in November 2004, and like many of



**Richard Brown**

its contemporaries, the Nation was in the process of expanding its gaming facilities and building what today is known as the Grand Casino. He's been with the tribe since, and has helped develop its growing human resources and employment demands amongst its current roster of more than 2,400 employees.

"I work with a diverse staff in the HR department that lives up to our mission of advocating for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and its employees by maintaining an ethical and positive work environment," said Brown. "The guiding principles of the HR department are integrity, efficiency and character in all of its relationships and interactions. I am proud to be associated with this great group of employees."

In 2017, due in part to his longtime experience in the workforce development system and his leadership at CPN, Brown was nominated as board chair for the Workforce Oklahoma region in central Oklahoma. As chair, he oversees the board that is responsible for Workforce Oklahoma's Area covering Pottawatomie, Lincoln, Seminole, Okfuskee, Hughes, Oklahoma, Canadian, Cleveland and Logan counties.

Chuck Mills, owner of Mills Machine Co. in Shawnee, Oklahoma, nominated Brown for the chair position.

"I worked closely with Richard when he was the executive director for the East Central Workforce Investment Board and I was on the executive committee," said Mills. "I was

pleased that someone with his experience and passion for workforce development was willing to step up into a volunteer leadership position. I am excited to have the opportunity to work with him again in providing wealth creation opportunities for our citizens."

The board works with elected officials in those counties to determine the best use of funds for those out of work or seeking better employment opportunities, including training for skills needed at a new job. The aforementioned counties have vastly diverse levels of infrastructure and employment sectors. They include the state's largest metropolitan area as well as extremely rural communities, making Brown's position as chair an extremely challenging one. He noted that one motivation for taking it was to ensure tribal employers, of which there are many in the rural communities in board's jurisdiction, had a voice about their own employment needs.

"Some of your largest employers in these rural areas are tribes...people hear the word 'gaming' and they think slot machines, blackjack dealers. But they don't think about the cooks we hire, about the construction and road maintenance people we hire. I want to make sure the tribes aren't forgotten."

After a career in helping people find, train and stay employed, one could forgive Brown if he were cynical or disillusioned with the role of governmental agencies responsible for unemployment issues. Yet his own experiences have cemented his belief that though the system is certainly not perfect, it can produce positive results.

"I'm a product of the system," said Brown proudly.

As a young man he came through the very same system, received the training and learned the value of work on what the former college lineman described as "back breaking jobs."

"It taught me that's not what I wanted to do when I became an adult," he said. "But it put me in a situation, knowing all that, that when I got my education I would probably be able to help somebody else out who was just like me. I'm proud to have been a product of it."



## GET YOUR PHOTO ON THE WALL OF HONOR

If you are a veteran and a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and would like your place on the Veterans Wall of Honor at the CPN Cultural Heritage Center, please send us your service photo, DD214 or military release form, full name, branch(s), service dates and rank upon discharge. If you are submitting for a relative, you are considered a donor and need to submit the following contact information: Name, address, phone number, email, relation, etc.

Submit by May 1, 2017 to have your photo on the wall for the 2017 Family Reunion Festival. Later submissions are accepted but not guaranteed to be on the wall by Festival.

For more information about how to submit, please contact Blake Norton at [bnorton@potawatomi.org](mailto:bnorton@potawatomi.org) or 405.878.5830 ext. 7120.

# Tribe begins rehabilitation on one of Pottawatomie County's oldest bridges

To visitors of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Powwow Grounds, the sight of construction cones near a closed off concrete bridge spanning Squirrel Creek is a familiar one. Since 2013 it has been closed to traffic, while the tribe assessed how best to repair and preserve the 67 foot span. Over the next year, the structure will go through various stages of repair as the CPN Roads Department rehabilitates what is believed to be Pottawatomie County's oldest standing bridge.

Constructed in 1917, the single span concrete rainbow arch bridge carries Rangeline Road across Squirrel Creek. It is the only rainbow arch bridge remaining in the state and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Originally running along what was then-known as the Williams Highway linking the towns of Shawnee and Tecumseh, the road and bridge were constructed using labor from prisoners housed at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary located in McAlester, Oklahoma.

According to documents from the time, members of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation living in the area assisted the convicts in their construction of the bridge.

As road and travel infrastructure developed in the county, the main artery between the two largest towns



Workers repair the bank of Squirrel Creek near the bridge.

in Pottawatomie County began to be Beard Street, later named S. Gordon Cooper Drive. Despite this, solid engineering and construction stood the test of time as the bridge remained drivable almost a century later. Finally, time and erosion took its toll and in 2013, the structure was closed to traffic. Two years later, through an agreement with the Pottawatomie County government, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation assumed ownership and maintenance responsibilities.

Since taking ownership of the structure, the tribe is able to apply for

federal funds to assist in repairing the piece of American history. The Federal Highway Administration will provide more than \$300,000 to the project.

The rehabilitation process will be an extensive one. First, an environmental assessment will take place to ensure that the planned construction work will not negatively impact the surrounding environment and Squirrel Creek. Repairs and resurfacing on the bridge's concrete will be undertaken including placing a three inch concrete cap after removal of the 3-inch asphalt cap. This will be fol-

lowed by repair of exposed rebar and small cracks in the structure.

The moorings in the banks of Squirrel Creek will also be repaired. Currently, runoff from drain pipes near its structure eroded the bridge's headwalls. To mitigate this, new concrete headwalls will be constructed around the pipes.

Construction is due to be finished by the end of May 2017, hopefully opening the bridge to foot traffic for visitors to the tribe's FireLake Complex for another 100 years.

## VISIT US ONLINE!



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HOWNIKAN

# Tribal members share culture with French immersion school

Vieux family member Jennifer Dye and her daughter Irene shared the history and culture of the Citizen Potawatomi people to Irene's second grade class at Academie Lafayette - a French immersion charter school in Kansas City, Missouri. There, students are taught using the French language in all subjects.

Part of the second grade Missouri learning standards include Native American history, so each student in the class was to give a presentation about a tribe, including information about the tribe's culture, history, clothing, housing, toys, language and ways of living. In order to help Irene's classmates understand the expectations for their projects, Irene's second grade teacher Madame Marie-Louise Sock asked she and her mother to present first about the Citizen Potawatomi.

"I don't feel comfortable sharing information about a culture just because I have read something in a book," said Madame Sock. "This is why Irene and her mom's presentation was priceless. They were in class as ambassadors of their tribe. It was amazing to have a real representative of the tribe come to

class, talk about the culture and share objects."

Dye and Irene discussed the Trail of Death and the travels from the Great Lakes region to the tribe's current location in Oklahoma. They also shared the story of the Bourbonnais cabin and the legend of the Bourbonnais family possibly hiding the outlaw Jesse James and his gang. The students learned basic greetings in Potawatomi and sang the well-known song "Head Shoulders Knees and Toes" in Potawatomi.

"Being students who speak French all day, they were excited to learn about the French history in our tribe," Dye said. "The students were very engaged and asked great questions."

According to Dye, Madame Sock is a favorite teacher of Irene and her classmates, who makes learning hands on and fun for the students and families. She is a master of meeting education with the magic of childhood.

"These students are American but they are in an immersion school where they learn using the French language," Madame Sock said. "The students are open minded because they are exposed to other cultures



Irene Dye

with all the teachers coming from different countries around the world."

Dye believes it is important to give her children the experiences to understand many cultures, especially the ones they are a part of, like Citizen Potawatomi and French, to see that love is the same in every language, regardless of our visible differences.

"To give my girls, Irene and Abby, the experience of as many cultures

as we can encounter is priceless," Dye said. "Irene has teachers at Academie Lafayette from all over the world, including France and countries throughout Africa. My hope is that my girls learn to love in every language, become culturally aware and sensitive, and be global thinkers who can impact the world in ways I haven't even dreamed possible."

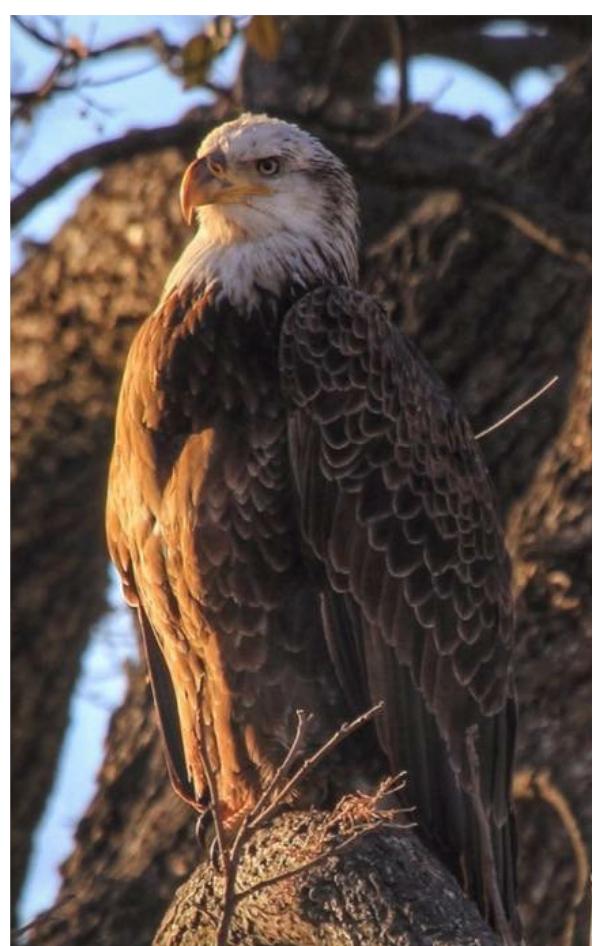


*Wadasé Zhabwé*, or as she was known then, *Penojés*, was one of the first eight eagles to call the CPN Eagle Aviary home. Before being mature enough to fledge on her own, she'd fallen out of her nest in Florida in 2012 and was rescued by a Good Samaritan and taken to the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey in Maitland for treatment. The fall from the nest fractured her left wrist or wingtip, and there was evidence something may have attacked her on the ground as well, causing further tissue damage to the already injured wing. According to the paperwork the CPN Eagle Aviary received when she arrived, she would never fly well enough to be considered for release.

"Originally we intended for her to be one of our education birds, to train on the glove," recalled CPN Eagle Aviary Director Jennifer Randell.

Yet as the birds went through their vaccination regimen, Randell and Assistant Director Bree Dunham noted some changes.

"We noticed her feathers started coming back in. That was a good sign," said Randell



As time passed *Penojés* began to fly inside the aviary enclosure, performing figure eight maneuvers above the other eagles. Following an x-ray, it became clear that the wing injuries had healed much better than expected and that *Penojés* had a chance at becoming fully flighted.

Randell and Dunham reached out to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and asked permission to release her, but there was a hitch in the plan. Due to her non-releasable status USFWS was not initially supportive of the release. However, after much discussion and seeing documentation of her current status, they agreed to the proposal.



# *“We believe these eagles are our messengers and carry our prayers to the Creator,”*

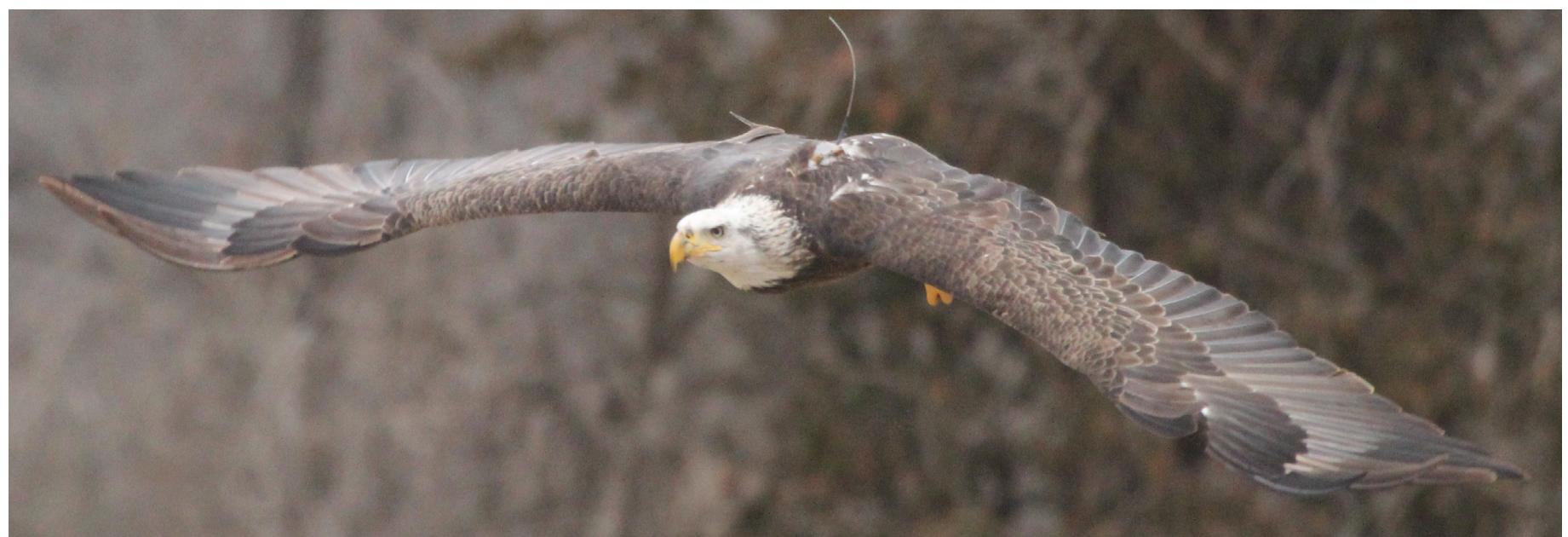
said Randell. “If for any reason we could get them back out into the wild, that’s ultimately what we want to do.”

Following consultations with USFWS, Randell and Dunham worked to prepare *Penojés* for release. She was long-lined and conditioned to reach her ideal flight weight and strength. She learned to catch live prey and further demonstrated her ability to survive in the wild on her own.

During this time, the aviary staff also proposed that *Penojés* be soft released at the aviary and fitted with a tracking telemetry to allow them to monitor her progress and study her movements once in the wild. Having been born in Florida, most raptor experts believed that even if she was released in Oklahoma, a state where she had grown up, she might travel back to the Sunshine State.

After consultations with other eagle experts across the country, Randell and Dunham decided to hold off on her release until after the nesting Oklahoma birds had made their annual migrations. It was determined to release *Penojés* in spring 2013.

“We wanted to wait until all the Oklahoma birds had fledged and left their nest,” said Dunham. “We wanted her to stay and not make her feel like she needed to leave until she was more experienced.”



## *“Stepping” into the world*

*Penojés* means ‘child’ in Potawatomi, but for a bird taking her first steps into the world on her own, that name just wasn’t going to cut it.

“We had to rename her to send her back out into that big world,” said Randell with pride. “It’s rough out there; we wanted her to have a stronger name, a name that told the story of her journey.”

With assistance from CPN Tribal Chairman John “Rocky” Barrett, the CPN Cultural Heritage Center and Language Department, *Penojés* was reborn as *Wadasé Zhabwé*.

“It means ‘brave breakthrough’. It’s hard to put into words, but it means you’ve been through struggles and really hard times, but you’ve come out strong on the other side. It was a perfect name for her,” said Randell.

The day of release, as Randell and Dunham recalled, was one of pent up emotion. Chairman Barrett held a naming ceremony that morning, the first for any eagle at the CPN Aviary.

Following the fitting of the telemetry tracking backpack with assistance of fellow eagle experts from Sia: The Comanche Nation Ornithological Initiative and Raptor View Research Institute, a hooded *Wadasé* was placed on a platform standing in the meadow behind the aviary. In anticlimactic fashion, once the hood was removed, *Wadasé* remained on the platform.

“Nothing happened for a few minutes, which seemed like an eternity,” recalled Randell.

After several minutes of surveying her surroundings, *Wadasé* took flight across the meadow, eventually landing on a branch along its tree line where she roosted for the evening.

She wouldn’t be seen again on the Aviary grounds for nearly a month.

Unbeknownst to Randell before the release, the GPS data from *Wadasé*’s backpack could only be downloaded from the ARGOS satellite once every three days. Thanks to some spotting by fellow tribal employees, reports came back that *Wadasé* was still near the tribal complex with sightings at the golf course and other areas near the Aviary. More than 20 days passed before she made her way back to the Aviary, where she was spotted under the big pecan tree out front, healthy but hungry; she eagerly made her way to the platform once aviary staff provided a meal.

“Initially when we released her she would come back every other day for food, but soon it was once a week, then once a month, then we didn’t see her for six months.”

Randell pointed out that the employees at the Nation went above and beyond in their willingness to work around the eagle. She noted that those working on construction or maintenance projects did their best



# WADASÉ TELEMETRY DATA

TOP SPEED  
**65 MPH**

OVER  
**30,000**  
TELEMETRY  
POINTS RECORDED

to remain quiet in areas where *Wadasé* was located so as not to frighten her off, making the Aviary grounds a safe place for her initial days and weeks outside the safety of the eagle enclosures.

## *Data that lasts*

With *Wadasé* there have been many firsts, including her status as the first Bald Eagle to be banded and released from a Native American Aviary with GPS tracking telemetry. Robert Domenech of Raptor View Research Institute, who fitted *Wadasé* with the GPS backpack, admitted that day that while he had experience in placing the packs on many birds, a Bald Eagle was not one of them. *Wadasé* was the first. Given their tendency to be in and around water, he told Randell he didn't expect the backpack to remain on her for more than six months to a year before the cotton stitching would break down and the unit would naturally fall off.

Four years later, the pack – roughly the size of a Match Box car, weighing just 48 grams – has so far remained on the young adult *Wadasé*.

The data gained from the telemetry has been a wealth of knowledge about the patterns and habits of young Bald Eagles. Many eagles travel hundreds if not thousands of miles during migration.

"We're fortunate that *Wadasé* has generally stayed in a 70-mile radius of the aviary," said Randell with a laugh.

Now in her fourth year of life in the wild, *Wadasé Zhabwé* is thriving. She no longer depends on the Aviary for support but she still visits from time to time. There are many,

## TIME AT THE AVIARY

| YEAR 1          | YEAR 3         |
|-----------------|----------------|
| <b>146 DAYS</b> | <b>25 DAYS</b> |

| YEAR 2         | YEAR 4         |
|----------------|----------------|
| <b>57 DAYS</b> | <b>24 DAYS</b> |

## FURTHEST DISTANCES



**32 MILES EAST**  
NEAR BEARDEN

**100 MILES WEST**  
NEAR WEATHERFORD

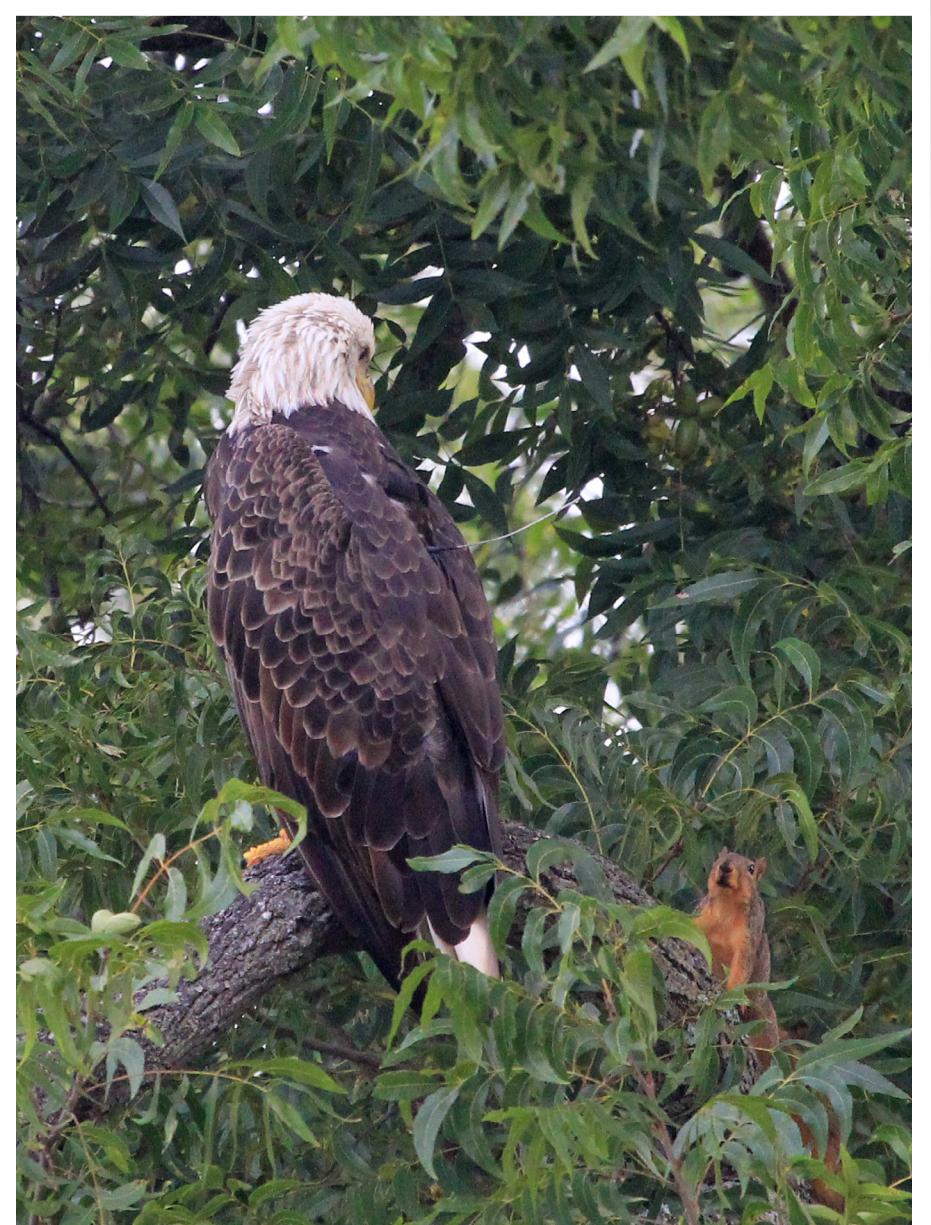
**91 MILES SOUTH**  
NEAR DUNCAN

**132 MILES NORTH**  
NEAR THE GREAT  
SALT PLAINS



both in and outside the Nation, who have become avid followers of her progress. Every third day, Randell and Dunham log on to review the telemetry data in search of her with as much anticipation as they felt on April 16, 2013.

The Aviary staff is quick to point out without people coming together this release would simply not have been possible. From the Good Samaritan to the dedicated staff at the Audubon Center for birds of Prey, Bill Voelker and Troy of Sia who assisted with her conditioning and release to Rob Domenech from the Raptor View Research Center who came all the way



**“It never gets old,” said Randell. “Four years later it’s still exciting to see where she’s at.”**

from Montana to band and fit her with telemetry, to the CPN for the support of this program to USFWS for their efforts, those close by who have kept an eye out for her and to everyone who follows her journey.

“We just want to thank everyone who made this release not just a possibility but a success,” said Dunham.

If you would like to follow news of Wadasé or learn more about the CPN Eagle Aviary, visit [www.potawatomihertiage.org/#aviary](http://www.potawatomihertiage.org/#aviary). As always we encourage you to keep your eyes out for Wadasé if you are near the areas she frequents. Send your encounters with Wadasé or any other eagles to us at [aviary@potawatomi.org](mailto:aviary@potawatomi.org).

## RE-ELECT

JOHN "ROCKY" BARRETT  
FOR TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

**Preserving culture for all Citizen Potawatomi Nation members.** Citizen Potawatomi Nation opened the cultural heritage center in January 2006 and it is currently undergoing a complete renovation of the museum. New exhibits will be open in January 2018.

**Protecting our prayer messengers.** Since opening in 2012, the eagle aviary has become a place for tribal members to rekindle ceremonies and traditions. Aviary staff manages and distributes eagle feathers to CPN tribal members for use in ceremony, prayer, and on regalia while providing a forever home for our prayer messengers.



**Improving access to government and culture for all tribal members.** Chairman Barrett spearheaded the 2007 constitutional reform in order to provide a more representative government for Potawatomi tribal members and give them access to more information and history about the tribe. He has supported bringing ceremony and traditional activities to tribal members across the United States.

**Preserving Potawatomi language for future generations.** Through partnerships with local universities, Chairman Barrett has made the Potawatomi language available to all online and for college credit.

*We must continue to rekindle our ceremonies, traditions, and language for future generations. It has been my honor to support these initiatives and to serve as your Tribal Chairman.*

# Meet the candidate: District 3 incumbent Robert Whistler

A familiar face to many in Citizen Potawatomi Nation District 3's legislative race will be Robert Whistler, who is seeking his third term against challenger Jahn Eric Humphreys for the district of central and east Texas.

Whistler was born in Cushing, Oklahoma, but at the age of three the family moved to San Diego, California where he was raised. A member of the Bourassa family, Whistler's father was active in the tribe as an attendee at meetings and gatherings and registered the children as CPN members at a young age. Whistler's aunt was a longtime regional representative of the tribe from Arizona as well. His paternal grandmother was Potawatomi, and weekly gatherings with her during his youth solidified the knowledge that despite the distance from the tribal headquarters in Oklahoma, he always identified as Potawatomi.

"We knew who we were. I wasn't as dark skin-wise as my grandmother was, but it didn't really make a whole lot of difference. We knew we were Indian," recalled Whistler.

Despite being raised on the west coast, Whistler's parents made an effort to return to their original communities in Oklahoma and Kansas as often as possible. His maternal grandparents lived in Kansas, just north of the Oklahoma border in the town of Arkansas City. Whistler actually graduated from high school there after living with his grandparents and working a set of odd jobs that included donut maker, Sears Catalog Store appliance assembler, ceramic tile manufacturing with Pomona Tile Co. and work in Newmans Dry Goods, where he helped with upholstery and drapes production.

After high school he returned to San Diego and enrolled in college at San Diego City College, where he was named freshman of the year, which Whistler attributes to his involve-

ment in student political activities there.

"A lot of my involvement was socially more than academically," said Whistler, but he did graduate with a degree in science and mathematics.

Post-graduation he went to work in purchasing reception at San Diego's Mercy Hospital, thinking he would pursue a career in the medical field. Through a family connection who worked as a surgeon there, Bob was able to get an up close look at surgery procedures. In another part time role, he worked at a mortuary. There, he principally worked in reception of the deceased and customer facing responsibilities.

"That experience really gave me a great feeling on how to deal with different kinds of reactions associated with death, which I was able to put to use later, in another career," he said.

Moving on from the medical field, he worked for General Dynamics, an aerospace contractor, where he was an operator of the Univac Scientific, one of the first computers put to use in the professional world. He eventually moved to Los Angeles, where he continued his education and received his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, and started with American Airlines, working a variety of customer service and management positions over a three decade career. One experience during his tenure at the airline sticks out to Whistler. After the loss of passengers in an airplane crash, Whistler, the manager of the plane's arrival city, put to use his experience in dealing with the bereaved honed in his previous work in the medical field and in the mortuary service.

It's this compassion and assistance that the District 3 legislator tries to use in his current role as an advocate for the Citizen Potawatomi of his legislative jurisdiction. His time



**Bob Whistler**

working at American Airlines also helped him work on budgets and customer service, something he explained transfers well into his role as a legislator.

Once he retired from American, he took a year off from work. Before long, he found an opportunity in the promotional products business, a trade he continues today with Redman I Am Promotions. The freedom of working for himself also had another benefit after the grueling travel schedule that he endured during his work for the airline. He was able to get more involved with his tribe.

"When I got settled back in Dallas, I started going to the meetings in Oklahoma. My dad was there, and my aunt was still there as a regional rep," said Whistler. "I started talking to her about our culture, history and began to get involved in making regalia...I took a look at what they were doing with the change in government, I decided it was time to give back to the Nation."

Whistler said his wealth of experience in the professional world, in customer service, budgetary matters and efficient business practices served well in the restructured tribal

government with elected legislators for those outside Oklahoma.

Now running for his third term as a legislator, Whistler said he had few regrets about the votes cast in his previous terms. Despite differing on some issues that have come up during his time in the tribal legislature, Whistler said that his experience as a member of Bedford, Texas city government shaped his view as a member of a legislative body.

"When we vote, whatever the final result is, that's what it is. You've got to go along with what the decision is," he said.

Whistler noted his ongoing focus on developing the American Indian community in Texas, specifically in promoting the need for a second Indian Clinic in Houston. Looking forward, he says his overall goal will be "on protecting the seed corn," or the long term revenues the Nation uses to fund its programs and services.

"Ultimately that'll allow us to protect the benefits and services we have," said Whistler, who admitted he's concerned with the changeover in the federal government.

Through discussions with various contacts, Whistler believes funds from federal coffers may begin to dwindle in the coming years, making him want to focus on CPN promoting and developing its commercial enterprises which, consequently, will support programs as wide ranging as healthcare to education funding.

Whistler said he will also promote the tribe's history and culture to the Millennial Generation, hoping to use technology to connect them to their tribe.

"Without them, there's no future generation."

## CPN legislative update: April 2017

On March 6 the members of the CPN Legislature met, with no one absent.

Following approval of meeting from the December 8, 2016 and January 19, 2017 meetings, several resolutions were approved, including the reapportionment of CPN legislative districts with all members voting in the affirmative. A further update on the redistricting changes will run in an upcoming *Hownikan* once they go into effect on July 1, 2017.

Legislators approved several funding applications including those for the Indian Health Services Domestic Violence Prevention Initia-

tive, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Family Violence Prevention Services, the U.S. Department of Justice's Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation which improves approaches to public safety and criminal justice. Applications for funding were also approved for the Institute of Museum and Library Services' Education Option and Assessment Program, Indian Health Services Youth Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Program, Federal Transit Administration's Public Transportation on Indian Lands and Tribal Transit Program.

New routes were added to the Nation's existing National Tribal Transportation Field Inventory System fol-

lowing passage of a resolution by the legislature, with a request following that the Bureau of Indian Affairs add them to the National Tribal Transportation Field Inventory. The Nation's Long Range Transportation Plan was also updated.

The Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation's CDFI Grant Assistance Program – offered through the U.S. Department of Treasury – was also approved.

The tribe's labor and employment statutes were also amended following the approval of all legislators. An ordinance creating Title 51, Professional Licenses, was also approved by ordinance.

A voluntary relinquishment of tribal citizenship was approved for Christie Null Clark, while a separate resolution passed that enrolled 193 applicants as Citizen Potawatomi tribal members.

Legislators also acted on two pieces of legislation concerning Iron Horse Industrial Park. The first involved the creation of an Industrial Development Authority, while another piece of legislation created a Limited Liability Corporation Act, with all legislators in attendance voting in affirmative on both items.

# Meet the candidate: District 3 challenger Jahn Eric Humphreys

One of the new faces to many in Citizen Potawatomi Nation District 3's legislative race will be Jahn Eric Humphreys, who is challenging incumbent Robert Whistler for the district of central and east Texas.

Humphreys was born in Borger, Texas, but grew up in Dallas. He completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Houston, having served in a variety of roles to pay for his education. He apprenticed in brick laying, plumbing and eventually settled on bartending, a job that brought in enough money to finance the completion of a Bachelor's degree in Petroleum Land Management.

In 1989, with the bottom having fallen out of the energy sector, Humphreys went to Mississippi College in pursuit of a law degree.

"My petroleum degree didn't do me any good because everything went bust in the oil business," recalled Humphreys. "I was 29, working at high end bars and realized it wasn't going to get any better than this, so I had already taken the LSAT and just said 'off to law school I go.'"

Humphreys' motivation wasn't just to exit the bar business. While watching TV with his father one day, a news show came on that described abuse at an adult care facility for the disabled. He told his father, an attorney practicing family law, that someone should do something about the abuse. His father replied that since he had already taken the law school's entrance exam he should "go to law school, become a DA and put them in jail. Or shut up."

"My father had a rule, 'Don't say something. Do something.'"



*Jahn Eric Humphreys*

He did well at Mississippi College, which he described as one of the more stringent law schools in the nation.

"They promised to flunk two thirds of us, and by golly they did," he said as he noted that his class started with 154 members and only graduated 62.

Humphreys went on to a focus in family law, a practice he still continues today. It's his motivation to help others that led him to file as a candidate in this year's tribal elections for CPN Legislative District 4, which encompasses the east central sections of the State of Texas.

Though born and largely raised away from the CPN jurisdiction in Shawnee, Oklahoma, he did regularly visit the area in his youth. His maternal grandfather was a member of the Seminole Nation while his paternal grandmother was a Citizen Potawatomi from the Slavin family. Humphreys spent time living with his grandfather and grandmother in

Shawnee on occasion and though he wasn't raised practicing traditional Native American practices and going to events, Humphreys said that respect for nature and the natural world were heavily incorporated into his upbringing. Still, there were negative experiences he saw during those times that still reverberate today.

"The misconceptions that people give Native Americans, it irritates me," he said, recalling stories of how his Seminole grandfather was treated. "It was a source of great irritation to know that one of the greatest men in my life was referred to as 'that dirty Indian.' My grandmother was referred to as 'that dirty Indian girl.' Those things affect you."

Partly as motivation from those experiences, he said his focus if elected will be to empower tribal members and Native Americans as a whole. Humphreys said he is particularly disturbed that Native Americans have no political voice on par with that of other specific groups. His work in family law, with an additional focus in Indian law, has given him a perspective on the ills plaguing many Native Americans. He believes that increasing Native Americans' political power, which would need to come as a coalescing of tribal people, would help mitigate negative trends in Indian Country like poor health and domestic violence. In the district he's running for, Humphreys highlighted the limited number of available health facilities for Native Americans as an example of this lack of political power.

Another issue he'd like to focus on is improving the consistency of the tribal government in communicating the benefits and programs.

"I don't believe the tribe has been successful in transmitting the benefits the tribe has available for its members," he said.

He cited several programs promoted in the tribal newspaper over the years, including the possibility of reinvesting retirement savings with the tribe, a home ownership closing cost fund and medical service reimbursements, but it was very difficult to locate the specific information.

"I believe in my heart that a parent – which the tribe's our parent in this regard – it is the parent's obligation to let the children know what the parent has to offer. I'd like to see that addressed...that routine members know that they have certain benefits."

He suggested the use of webinars to explain these offerings. To forge a closer bond between Citizen Potawatomi, he also wants the tribal government to host an online or email list service that allows tribal members to know who each other are if they would like to volunteer that information.

"If I had my biggest gripe, is it's that the tribe doesn't do enough to reach out and drag its members back into the culture," said Humphreys. "We're losing our identity and I don't want to see that happen, because another one or two generations, we're gone."

Humphreys complimented the hard work of his opponent, incumbent Bob Whistler, but said his own candidacy was launched to infuse new faces and ideas in the legislature.

"Sometimes it's good to have new blood."

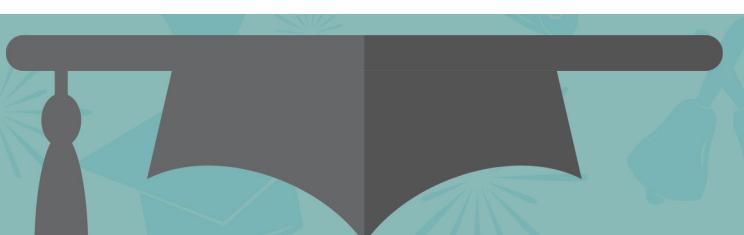
## College-age Potawatomi, this is the program for you!

*Apply by April 15*

### What is the PLP?

The six-week Potawatomi Leadership Program brings a group of young tribal members from around the world to Shawnee, Oklahoma to learn about the government, culture, and economic development of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

For more information, please contact CPN Education Director Tesia Zientek at [tesia.zientek@potawatomi.org](mailto:tesia.zientek@potawatomi.org)  
To read student perspectives and apply, visit [plp.potawatomi.org](http://plp.potawatomi.org)



# ARE YOU GRADUATING IN MAY 2017?

SEND US THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AT [GRADUATION@POTAWATOMI.ORG](mailto:GRADUATION@POTAWATOMI.ORG)  
FULL NAME, HOME TOWN, POTAWATOMI FAMILY NAME, HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE, DEGREE TYPE AND MAJOR

# CPN Veterans report: April 2017



By Daryl Talbot, Commander

*Bozho,  
(Hello)*

Something that many of us may not pay attention to, but the Veterans Administration's National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention is concerned with and is encouraging veterans and their families to jump start the spring season by using the following "Eat Wisely" tips.

1. Establish regular meal times. Try not to skip any meals because skipping meals leads to overeating later in the day or evening.

2. Read food labels when you are purchasing food items. Pay attention to portion size, the number

of calories in each portion, and the amount of saturated and trans-fat in each portion.

3. Make small substitutions in your diet to cut calories. For example, drink water or unsweetened iced tea instead of high-calorie drinks. Choose low-calorie versions of salad dressing, cheese, sour cream and mayonnaise. Go easy on fried foods: bake, broil, poach or grill your food instead.

4. Plan meals and snacks, and make certain to have healthier food choices on hand. This makes it easier to resist trips to the vending machine and unhealthy, unplanned snacking.

5. Portion your servings to control the amount. For example, plate your

meal in the kitchen using portion control. Bag snacks, such as potato chips or cookies into single serving sized containers or zip-lock bags. When you have a craving, eat the serving size only. Remember to pass on seconds.

6. Control calories when dining out. At fast-food restaurants, "down-size" food and drinks instead of "super-sizing" or better yet, try new restaurants that offer interesting healthier choices. You can always check restaurant websites for nutrition information to select the healthiest options.

7. Share an entree with a friend or family member. Do order a personal salad or side vegetables. Ask restaurants to: "Please, put the sauce on the side" (and try not to use it all), "hold the cheese," use low-calorie dressing and as always, try to avoid fried dishes.

8. Identify your guilty pleasures such as ice cream, cake, cookies or potato chips. Continue to enjoy them by trying the low-calorie versions or by eating less of the regular versions.

9. Avoid places and situations that trigger eating. For example, if walking past the bakery causes doughnut cravings, try changing your route. Replace candy on your desk with fruit

and steer-clear of the office candy bowl. Avoid eating while watching television, reading, working on the computer or driving. Many people do not recall all they have eaten while doing other things.

10. Be active! Try substituting other activities for eating. For example, take a walk, walk with a friend or dance to some music. Other activities allow you to avoid extra calories and can be more satisfying than eating.

Eating healthier doesn't mean changing your eating pattern overnight. Small changes, made over time, can add up. If you are a CPN member or member of another federally recognized tribe, the CPN Diabetes Program and personal trainers at the FireLake Wellness Center are a great resource for dietary and healthy eating advice. Give them a call at (405) 395-9304.

Remember the CPN Veterans Organization meets every month on the fourth Tuesday at 6p.m. (or as soon as you can get there) in the North Reunion Hall on the Potawatomi Powwow Grounds. All CPN veterans and their families are welcome. A meal is provided.

**RE-ELECT  
JON BOURSAW**

**DISTRICT 4  
LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE**

## WHY RE-ELECT JON BOURSAW?

- He is dedicated to the preservation of tribal culture and history
- He provides representation to all tribal members
- He communicates open and honestly
- He is an advocate for veterans
- He supports expansion and access of tribal benefits for all members

**YOUR VOICE AND VOTE IS IMPORTANT  
RE-ELECT JON BOURSAW**

Paid for by Scott Holzmeister, Tempe, Arizona.



**Theresa Adame  
Returning to Serve You  
District 4 Kansas**

- Proven leader**
- Easily accessible**
- Family / people of Kansas are my number one priority**

**VoteAdame.**

**EVERY VOTE COUNTS  
REMEMBER TO RETURN YOUR BALLOT REQUEST TO VOTE**

*Please contact me with questions.  
I look forward to meeting you!*

**Theresa Adame  
Ph: 785.845.8588  
FB: Theresa Adame  
Email: temada@aol.com**

Sponsored by Theresa Adame, Topeka, Kansas.

## JOIN US FOR A DISTRICT 2 LUNCH & BUSINESS MEETING

to learn CPN information, visit with fellow Potawatomi, and share a delicious lunch. On arrival, please ask for the Pavilion Room, reserved by CPN Rep. Eva Marie Carney. The Pavilion Room is Trio's private event venue, a large open room that accommodates 80.

**SATURDAY  
APRIL 29TH, 2017  
11AM TO 1:30 PM**

**Trio's Restaurant  
Pavilion in the Park  
8201 Cantrell Rd #100  
Little Rock, AR 72227  
501-221-3330**

Please RSVP with the names of attendees and their ages (if under 14) to [ecarney@potawatomi.org](mailto:ecarney@potawatomi.org) or toll free at 866-961-6988 (please leave a voicemail) by April 22, or as soon as you know you will be attending.

Can't wait to see old friends and meet new ones!

All CPN District 3 members come  
meet your June 24, 2017 election  
candidates for District 3



**Saturday April 8, 2017  
11:00 to 2:00PM**

**Museum of North  
Texas History  
720 Indiana  
Wichita Falls, TX 76301  
940-322-7628**

**RSVP to [RWhistler@Potawatomi.Org](mailto:RWhistler@Potawatomi.Org)  
or 817-229-6271 by April 1  
for appropriate food ordering**



District 3 CPN Members, please join us to meet your  
**June 24 election candidates for the  
Chairman and District 3**

**Sunday, April 23, 2017 11 AM - 2 PM  
Texas Motor Speedway**

**The Speedway Club - Ft. Worth B Room  
3545 Lone Star Circle  
Fort Worth, TX 76177  
Lunch will be provided**

**RSVP to [RWHISTLER@Potawatomi.Org](mailto:RWHISTLER@Potawatomi.Org) or  
call 817-229-6271 by April 14 for food ordering**

All District 3 CPN members come meet  
your June 24 election candidates for District 3

**Sunday, April 30  
11:00AM - 1:00PM**

**Lunch provided**

**Saddle River Range  
4280 FM 1488  
Conroe, TX 77384  
936-271-2629**

**RSUP to [RWhistler@Potawatomi.org](mailto:RWhistler@Potawatomi.org) or 817-229-6271  
by April 20 for catering order deadline**



## PLEASE JOIN US FOR A CPN DISTRICT 5 MEETING

**SUNDAY,  
APRIL 9, 2017  
FROM 1PM-5PM**

**AT THE  
ARIZONA SONORA  
DESERT MUSEUM  
2021 N. KINNEY RD  
TUCSON, AZ. 85743  
520-883-2702**

**LUNCH PROVIDED**

**RSVP BY APRIL 4TH TO JAMIE MOUCKA  
AT [JMOUCKA@POTAWATOMI.ORG](mailto:JMOUCKA@POTAWATOMI.ORG)  
OR CALL 1-800-880-9880**

## COME FOR SUNDAY LUNCH AT (Legendary) TUJAGUE'S

**Sunday, April 23, 2017  
12:30 pm - 3:00 pm  
(Lunch service begins at 1:00 pm)**

**823 Decatur Street  
in the New Orleans  
French Quarter  
[www.tujaguesrestaurant.com](http://www.tujaguesrestaurant.com)**

Enjoy a seated lunch with your fellow Potawatomis and our families, hosted by your CPN Legislator Eva Marie Carney. Event begins at 12:30 pm with introductions; lunch service begins at 1 pm. CPN member Lyle Simmons has agreed to share, over dessert and coffee, information about making regalia and his Native craft work. I'll catch you up on District #2 information and make sure everyone has a great time!

**Please RSVP by April 15 to [ecarney@potawatomi.org](mailto:ecarney@potawatomi.org) or leave a voicemail at 866.961.6988  
(toll free) with number, names and ages (if under 12) of guests who will be joining us.**

**ALL CPN DISTRICT 3 MEMBERS  
COME TO MEET YOUR JUNE 24, 2017  
ELECTION CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT 3**

**SUNDAY APRIL 9, 2017  
11:00AM TO 2:00PM**

**LUNCH WILL BE SERVED**

**BEST WESTERN  
ABILENE INN & SUITES  
350 E. OVERLAND TRAIL  
ABILENE, TX 79601  
325-692-5501**

**RSVP TO  
[RWHISTLER@POTAWATOMI.ORG](mailto:RWHISTLER@POTAWATOMI.ORG)  
OR CALL 817-229-6271  
BY MARCH 30TH FOR  
APPROPRIATE FOOD ORDERING.**

**ALL CPN District 3 members come meet your  
June 24 election candidates for District 3**

**Saturday April 29, 2017 • 11:00AM-1:00PM**

**Sophienburg Museum Library  
401 W. Coll St at Academy Ave  
New Braunfels, TX 78130**

**Lunch will be served**

**RSVP to [RWhistler@Potawatomi.org](mailto:RWhistler@Potawatomi.org)  
or 817-229-6271 by April 21 for  
appropriate food ordering.**

**All District 4 CPN members,  
join us for one of two meetings in Kansas:**

**Rossville:  
May 6 at 11 a.m.  
CPN Community Center,  
806 Nishnabe Trail,  
Rossville, KS, 66533**

**Wichita:  
May 7 at 1 p.m.  
Mid-America All-Indian  
Center. 650 N. Seneca,  
Wichita, KS, 67203**

Lunch will be provided at both meetings but we need RSVPs  
to confirm how much food to prepare! Please RSVP and  
indicate which meeting you will be attending by contacting  
Jamie Moucka at 1-800-880-9980 or Jon Boursaw at  
785-861-7272 or [jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org](mailto:jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org)



## Please join us for a CPN District 8 meeting

*Visit with tribal executives like Chairman John Barrett and D8  
Representative Dave Carney*

**Saturday,  
June 3, 2017  
from 10am-3pm**

**Lunch will  
be provided**

**Heathman Lodge  
7801 NE Greenwood  
Drive, Vancouver,  
Washington 87551  
360-254-3100**

**RSVP  
by May 30  
to Jamie Moucka at  
[Jmoucka@potawatomi.org](mailto:Jmoucka@potawatomi.org)  
or 1-800-880-9880**





Bozho nikanek,  
(Hello my friends)

The tribal election season is with us again. As you can see from the ads in this issue of the *Hownikan*, I am running for reelection to the office of tribal chairman. A great deal of progress has been made at our Nation in the more than 30 years since I was first elected in 1985. Back then we had some very "rough and tumble" elections. Politics, being what it has become during the last white man's election, my fear is that ours could get that crazy. Our tribe has a very unique problem in how our politics is done, however, one that warrants special concerns by us all.

It is fair game for political candidates to criticize their opponents personally. It is fair game for political candidates to criticize the record of a political office holder. Past that, we need to be careful.

It is not fair game for political opponents to malign the tribe's businesses publicly just to get elected. Our banks, our grocery stores, our golf course, our casinos, our bowling center, and the many tribal businesses we

## Tribal Chairman - John "Rocky" Barrett

have worked so hard to build up all depend on the *confidence of the public*.

Without that, the businesses fail.

Every tribal member, under the laws of the tribal court, has ample recourse for getting answers and information about legitimate issues within our tribal government. We have both laws and an impartial court to enforce them. The legislative arm of the tribe has a public forum. Use that system. It is there for you.

If you have a legitimate question, ask the tribe first. If you are not satisfied with that answer, you have another way to go at it. If a candidate believes that something is improper about a tribal business, that is what the tribal courts are for. It does not cost a thing to file a complaint and get a fair hearing of that complaint. But first, ask the executive officers. If their answer is not satisfactory to you, ask the tribal legislature. That is why the meetings of the tribal legislature are open to any tribal member, so they can come to the meetings and express their concerns. That is why tribal financial records are available to any member. Any member of our tribe can get the facts about our operations in writing.

So my plea to my fellow candidates is BE RESPONSIBLE! Don't harm the tribe's reputation and credibility by sending unfounded allegations to the white man's

newspapers, crank letters to Congress, or anonymous letters to the tribal population. I make the same appeal to my opponent and all of the other candidates for office that I have made for over 30 years: consider the welfare of the tribe first.

We are a very different tribe now than we were 30 years ago. We have more than 2,400 employees, making us Pottawatomie County's largest employer. Our annual operating budget is more than \$350 million dollars, not including our banks. We operate 14 separate tribal businesses that serve the general public. All of them depend heavily on the goodwill of the public – our customers. If our politics threatens to hurt our business, every Citizen Potawatomi is potentially harmed. It is the earnings of those businesses that pay for the prescription program, housing assistance, mortgage assistance, employee loans, transportation, elder care, and college scholarships.

Even more sensitive, and the subject of federal law, is political talk about our banks.

We now operate the largest tribally-owned national bank chain in the United States – First National Bank and Trust Company of Shawnee, Oklahoma. It earns the tribe more than \$1 million per year. It is our largest trust fund investment and provides the backbone of our college and vocational school scholarship funding program. National banks are federally regulated corporations that have very

strict standards for the safety of the public's money. First National Bank has the best safety and soundness reputation a national bank can earn from the United States Treasury Department. Banks make their earnings by lending a portion of the deposits that customers put into the bank. Without these deposits, the bank will fail. Without public confidence in the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, which owns and operates our six national banks, people will not deposit their money. We must not, ever, allow the bank's reputation to be used in a tribal political campaign. It is a dangerous and destructive course that will lead to a huge loss of tribal equity and income. There is, in fact, a federal law that prohibits distributing false information about a national bank. We do not want the treasury department or the FBI involved in our elections.

Our tribe had some irresponsible acts during tribal elections over the years, but not for a long time. In the old days it was usually by anonymous letters with malicious content to the membership, or nutty letters to public officials outside of the tribe. In some cases it was more serious; outright libel and slander was committed. No matter what goes on out there in non-Indian politics, there have to be limits on what can be said in our tribal election, by word, letter or internet. Falsefully accusing another person of crimes and immoral acts is, and should be, against the law – whether the person who is libeled and

slandered is a "public figure" or not.

In fact, this has virtually stopped since the independent judicial officers of our tribe got the opportunity to hear this point of law. Every CPN tribal official has a responsibility to fight against this sickness in our election process. Unless it is stopped, no able, bright and dedicated young person will choose elective office in the future. Then we are all losers. If what we say in an election costs our members services or opportunity, we are all losers. We can still have politics, and we can still have hotly contested elections, but it is best for us all to maintain a degree of civility. It is in the best interests of both sides of every campaign to keep the dirty laundry out of the public eye. Just look what happened in the last presidential election. This country lost its sense of civility. The scars will last for a generation. The Citizen Potawatomi Nation does not need to do that.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your tribal chairman.

Please vote. Send in your requests for a ballot or plan to vote in person.

*Migwetch,  
(Thank you)*

John "Rocky" Barrett  
*Keweoge*  
He Leads Them Home  
Tribal Chairman



Bozho,  
(Hello)

The State of Oklahoma released information last week, showering a bright light on Oklahoma's American Indian students. The 2015 National Indian Education Study shows significant gains in reading for Oklahoma fourth-graders, who scored 19 points above the national average. In addition, fourth and eighth grade math and reading have consistently been above the national average since the beginning of the testing in 2005. The

## Vice-Chairman - Linda Capps

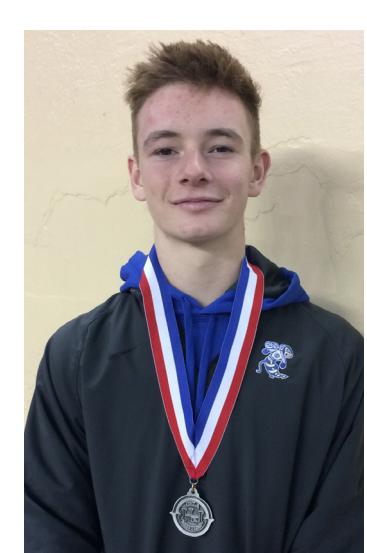
testing has been conducted in 14 states. The states are: Alaska, Arizona, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming. Oklahoma has more than 130,000 Native American Indian students...the highest number in the country.

CPN tribal officials hold the education of our students as a high priority. It is important that the tribes and the states dedicate resources to make sure that the education of our youth is continually improving. Although I added some good news about Oklahoma's Native American students within fourteen states, it is my opinion that the overall view for Oklahoma's students is somewhat in jeopardy unless the state government steps to the plate to increase spending for public schools.

At the same time, like all states, we have bright and promising students in Oklahoma. As CPN is one of the larger tribes in the state, many quality Oklahoma students are members of CPN. As a former educator, I marvel at the contact that I have with our students even from the vice-chairman's desk. Recently, I had two families reach out to me about their students. Bill Martell, from the McLoud area, visited to seek guidance on how his grandson, an eleventh grader at Westmoore High School, should begin to prepare for the naval academy from a tribal standpoint. Fortunately, our tribe was able to help this student in a couple of ways. CPN has a new, excellent education department, directed by our own tribal member and Notre Dame graduate, Tesia Zientek. Tesia always has good tips for those students reflecting on their educational goals. For



*Jake Martell, Westmoore High School 11th grader, outstanding football player, and a potential Naval Academy student. Jake is enrolled in the 6-day Naval Academy preparation program June.*



*Thad Williams, freshman at Choctaw High School, 2017 State Wrestling Runner-up out of 64 competitors and outstanding academic student.*

this particular student, we also have the expertise of Shane Jett, Director of Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation and also a commissioned officer in the United States Na-

val Reserve for the past nine years. Shane visited with the young man, his father and grandfather by phone for nearly a half hour.

*Continued on page 22*

## Vice-Chairman - Linda Capps continued

Within the last few weeks, I received a phone message and text from the family of a young CPN member who lives in Choctaw. The young man is a descendant of the Curly family...a family that I have known for many years. His deceased grandmother is Patricia Foughty, sister to Arlyn Patterson, a patriarch of this particular Curly clan. Our families have enjoyed visiting at festivals and playing sports against each other at various festi-

val competitions. When I received the picture of young Thad Williams, I could not help but think this age group is the near future of athletic events at the festival. This young man may be competing against my grandsons and great nieces and nephews. The circle is unending. There will be Potawatomi members replacing those who are reading this very article...we are a resilient people.

My love and appreciation for young people never dies. They are the future of both our United States and our Citizen Potawatomi Nation. My fervent wishes go out to both Jake Martell and Thad Williams as they embark on their exciting future. They are certainly appropriate candidates for the Potawatomi Leadership Program when they reach the right age. Perhaps we will see them in that capacity, or we might hear of their accomplishments

by another method. Whatever the outcome, we can be proud of these two CPN students and thousands like them in Oklahoma and all across the United States. Thousands of CPN students are making a difference in academics, sports, music, drama, 4-H, FFA, boys and girls scouts and a throng of other activities. I am thankful for the past and present opportunities that I have experienced to meet, see, read or hear about our young CPN

students...the future of our nations.

*Migwetch,*  
(Thank you)

Linda Capps  
*Segenakwe*  
(Black Bird Woman)  
Vice-Chairman  
405-275-3121 office  
405-650-1238 cell  
[lcapps@potawatomi.org](mailto:lcapps@potawatomi.org)

## ADVERTISED LEASE SALE 32 | APRIL 26, 2017

Any lease granted herein will be for grazing and dryland farming **ONLY**. The lease does not grant use of existing houses or the right to place mobile homes upon the leased premises.

To obtain a lease bid packet please send a request in writing to:  
Citizen Potawatomi Nation | Department of Real Estate Services | 130 E. MacArthur, Suite 204 | Shawnee, OK 74804

| ALLOTMENT NO. AND NAME                | ACRES | DESCRIPTION  | ITEM 1  | ALLOTMENT NO. AND NAME           | ACRES | DESCRIPTION   | ITEM 2  |
|---------------------------------------|-------|--|---------|----------------------------------|-------|---|---------|
| 821 510<br>Rozetta Trombla            | 80    | NE/4 SW/4 & NW/4 SE/4 of Sec. 25, Township 8N, Range 1E of the Indian Meridian, Cleveland County Oklahoma                |         | 821 806<br>Ellen M. Cummings     | 80    | W/2 SE/4 of Sec. 36, Township 8N, Range 4E of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County Oklahoma |         |
| ALLOTMENT NO. AND NAME                | ACRES | DESCRIPTION  | ITEM 3  | ALLOTMENT NO. AND NAME           | ACRES | DESCRIPTION   | ITEM 4  |
| 821 395-C<br>Pean-ish or Peter Curley | 40    | SE/4 NW/4 of Sec. 4 Township 6N Range 5E of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County Oklahoma                            |         | 821 219<br>Alexander Rhodd       | 24.73 | Lot 99 of Sec. 33 Township 8N Range 5E of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County Oklahoma     |         |
| ALLOTMENT NO. AND NAME                | ACRES | DESCRIPTION  | ITEM 5  | ALLOTMENT NO. AND NAME           | ACRES | DESCRIPTION   | ITEM 6  |
| 821 S-945<br>Joseph Welch             | 320   | N/2 of Sec. 20 Township 6N Range 3E of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County Oklahoma                                 |         | 821 809<br>Frank / Mupuc/ Davis  | 80    | N/2 NE/4 of Sec. 15 Township 7N Range 4N of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County Oklahoma   |         |
| ALLOTMENT NO. AND NAME                | ACRES | DESCRIPTION  | ITEM 7  | ALLOTMENT NO. AND NAME           | ACRES | DESCRIPTION   | ITEM 8  |
| 821 50<br>Thomas Nona                 | 80    | SE/4 NW/4 & SW/4 NE/4 of Sec. 19 Township 6N Range 5E of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County Oklahoma               |         | 821 C 135<br>William Phelps      | 40    | NW/4 SW/4 of Sec. 34 Township 9N Range 1E of the Indian Meridian, Cleveland County Oklahoma     |         |
| ALLOTMENT NO. AND NAME                | ACRES | DESCRIPTION  | ITEM 9  | ALLOTMENT NO. AND NAME           | ACRES | DESCRIPTION   | ITEM 10 |
| 821 C 133<br>John Phelps              | 80    | E/2 NE/4 of Sec. 33 Township 9N Range 1E of the Indian Meridian, Cleveland County Oklahoma                               |         | 821 857<br>Zoa Denton            | 160   | SE/4 of Sec. 1 Township 7N Range 4E of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County Oklahoma        |         |
| ALLOTMENT NO. AND NAME                | ACRES | DESCRIPTION  | ITEM 11 | ALLOTMENT NO. AND NAME           | ACRES | DESCRIPTION   | ITEM 12 |
| 821 900<br>Madeline Denton            | 10    | E/2 SE/4 SW/4 SE/4 & W/2 SW/4 SE/4 SE/4 of Sec. 6 Township 7N Range 1E of the Indian Meridian, Cleveland County Oklahoma |         | 821 116<br>John Baptiste Vasseur | 80    | E/2 SW/4 of Sec. 18 Township 6N Range 5E of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County Oklahoma   |         |
| ALLOTMENT NO. AND NAME                | ACRES | DESCRIPTION  | ITEM 13 | ALLOTMENT NO. AND NAME           | ACRES | DESCRIPTION   | ITEM 14 |
| 821 84<br>Joseph Epeteska             | 80    | E/2 NW/4 of Sec. 24 Township 6N Range 4E of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County Oklahoma                            |         | 821 97<br>Clarrisa Mars          | 80    | E/2 NW/4 of Sec. 7 Township 6N Range 5E of the Indian Meridian, Pottawatomie County Oklahoma    |         |

## Hownikan

1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma

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Vice-Chairman: Linda Capps

Sec./Treas.: D. Wayne Trousdale

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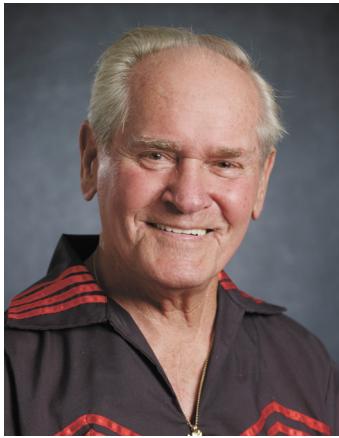
**Writer:** Taylor Doran

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Questions: [hownikan@potawatomi.org](mailto:hownikan@potawatomi.org) or 800-880-9880

Address changes should be sent to Tribal Rolls, 1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801



Bozho nikan,  
(Hello friend)

Just a reminder, mark your calendar April 29 for our District 1 meeting at University of Notre Dame. The meeting will be at the Morris Inn 1399 Notre Dame Ave. South Bend, Indiana from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

In attendance will be Chairman John Barrett and Vice-Chairman Linda Capps. Guest speaker Rich Meyers will speak on Potawatomi of the District 1 area and we will tour the cabin of Fr. Petit after a lunch that will be provided.

We will honor our youngest, wisest and furthest travelled members attending the meeting. Also please RSVP



Bozho,  
(Hello)

I hope all is well with you and your family as we welcome mnokme/spring. Recently I ran across a Spring Coloring Book posted to the Pokagon Potawatomi website. You might enjoy flipping through it and sharing it, and the Potawatomi vocabulary in it, with your children and



An NMAI selfie during our visit.

## District 1 - Roy Slavin

by April 21 so we will have enough for lunch to [rslavin@potawatomi.org](mailto:rslavin@potawatomi.org) or [jmoucka@potawatomi.org](mailto:jmoucka@potawatomi.org) or toll free 1-888-741-5767.

Also I would like to mention if you have someone graduating from high school or college and would like to have your graduate recognized in the tribal paper, please send the following information to [graduation@potawatomi.org](mailto:graduation@potawatomi.org) by no later than April 15. It is very important that it arrive no later than April 15 or else it may not make the printing deadline to be included.

- Name
- Hometown
- Potawatomi family name
- School/ University name
- Degree and major name

This is very important – grandparents like to see this information in the paper!

Another very important item for your calendar is 2017 elections. Vote in person during the Family Reunion Festival in June or by absentee ballot. There are several offices in the tribal govern-



## District 1 Potawatomi, mark your calendars for a meeting at Notre Dame University!

April 29, 2017  
from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Attendees will include D1 Legislator Roy Slavin, CPN Chairman John Barrett, and CPN Vice-Chairman Linda Capps who will present honors to meeting attendees.

Guest speaker Rich Meyer will speak on Potawatomi in the D1 area and we'll tour the cabin of Fr. Petit after a lunch that is provided.

Mention Potawatomi Nation to book discounted rooms at Morris Inn but please RSVP April 21, 2017 so we have enough for lunch to [rslavin@potawatomi.org](mailto:rslavin@potawatomi.org) or [jmoucka@potawatomi.org](mailto:jmoucka@potawatomi.org) or 1-888-741-5767.

ment on the ballot including the executive office of tribal chairman and Districts 1,2,3 and 4. To date my District 1 is unopposed so you folks in District 1 will have me for another term, but the important one is tribal chairman.

Chairman Barrett who has served as chairman from 1985 to present has agreed to run for another term. I hope

to see our nation continue to grow as it has under his leadership for the past 32 years.

I will close this article as always with a plea for your contact information. If you do not get an occasional email from me it is because I do not have your contact information and due to privacy issues the Nation cannot provide me with that in-

formation. I may be reached at [rslavin@potawatomi.org](mailto:rslavin@potawatomi.org), [rjslavin@gmail.com](mailto:rjslavin@gmail.com) or by phone toll free 1-888-741-5767.

Roy Slavin  
Netagtege (Forever Planting)  
[rslavin@potawatomi.org](mailto:rslavin@potawatomi.org)  
[rjslavin@gmail.com](mailto:rjslavin@gmail.com)

## District 2 - Eva Marie Carney

grandchildren: <http://www.pokagon.com/our-culture/language>.

We may have the best-ever array of photos taken during the trips made over the years to the Cultural Resource Center of the National Museum of the American Indian in Suitland, Maryland. You can be the judge. The latest album – available at <http://tinyurl.com/FebArchives> – includes photos contributed by Whitney Greenfield Basili (Maryland) and Laura Hewuse (Oklahoma). Whitney and Laura are relatives but had not met before – they share strong photography skills, as well as ancestry. A couple of the photos are included with this column. In

addition to Whitney and Laura, Sue Wagner (Virginia), Amy and Bill Hones (Maryland) and Brian Hewuse (Oklahoma, Laura's spouse) joined me on the tour.

I requested September 14 or September 28, 2017, as our next tour dates, and hope to get date confirmation soon. Please check my calendar on [evamariecarney.com](http://evamariecarney.com) for updates. With budget cuts, the number of permitted participants in these tours has been reduced to a maximum of 10, so getting back to me early with your interest in attending a particular tour will help ensure you are able to participate.

Upcoming District 2 events include a Sunday lunch for CPN members and family in New Orleans, Louisiana on Sunday, Apr. 23, 2017. The next Saturday, Apr. 29, 2017, I will be hosting a family business meeting (with lunch provided) in Little Rock, Arkansas. For both events, please get your RSVPs in right away if you can attend. Details for both events are posted to my website calendar. Potawatomi residing within a reasonable distance of each event have been mailed postcard invitations, copies of which are reprinted in this *Hownikan*. Please know that if you plan to be in the vicinity of a District 2 event but don't live close by you are welcome to attend, but please do RSVP! Both



A doll in the NMAI archives.

of these meeting venues have space limitations so fair warning that I may need to run waiting lists. Migwetch/thank you to CPN Public Information's John VanPool and CPN Graphic Designer Emily Gulesarian for their help with designing, printing and mailing the invitations.

I treasure the opportunity to meet new Potawatomi and visit again with those I've met before, and to otherwise serve you and the Nation. Migwetch/thank you for the honor of representing you in the Nation's legislature. As you may know, I did not draw an opponent in the upcoming election. That said, my name will be on the ballot and I would appreciate your vote (it's always good to know that District 2 folks are

paying attention!). The office of tribal chairman is being contested and your vote also is needed on the budget, so please request your absentee ballot, and then please be sure to return the ballot before Election Day in June.

Bama mine,  
(Until later)

Eva Marie Carney  
Ojindiskwe  
Legislator, District 2  
2200 North George Mason  
Drive #7307  
Arlington, VA 22207  
[ecarney@potawatomi.org](mailto:ecarney@potawatomi.org)  
Toll Free: 866-961-6988  
[evamariecarney.com](mailto:evamariecarney.com)





Bozho,  
(Hello)

By now you should have received a letter from the election committee with a post card that is to be used as your request for an absentee ballot. Please be sure to send that in since the vote this year does specifically involve District 3. If you did not receive that letter, please contact me! I can provide you with a card to request the absentee ballot. Simply send me an email or attend one of the five meetings in District 3 in April.

The five meetings to be held will be as follows:

- Saturday April 8  
Wichita Falls
- Sunday April 9 - Abilene
- Sunday April 23  
Fort Worth and the  
Chairman will be in  
attendance
- Saturday April 29  
New Braunfels
- Sunday April 30 - Conroe

Post cards are to be mailed to the District 3 CPN members

## District 3 - Bob Whistler

living in the counties closest, and what we feel is a reasonable driving distance to the meeting location. Depending upon where you live, you may receive an invitation to more than one meeting. We hope that you can attend one of the meetings.

Getting the meetings setup was a bit time consuming, however I was still on the prowl to see if I could find more information relative to health services for our District 3 tribal members. I met with a young lady at the Dallas Small Business Expo who represents Paradigm Family Health. This family health clinic is one of about 550 located throughout the U.S. that offer primary care for those with no insurance. They have a flat monthly fee which is like paying for insurance. Their rates vary depending upon your age, and from what I saw appear very reasonable. However, this is not a substitute for the Affordable Care Act, and there may be a way to make this work. If you live in north Texas; you have access to the IHS Urban Inter-Tribal Center which may be used in place of other physicians. All you need then is to have filed the proper IRS form that you are a Native American, and have access to a Native American provided medical service. This service that I found is not going to fit every one, and I am only bringing it up because many of you have contacted me

advising that you really cannot afford medical insurance. Moreover, you are not able to get to one of our two medical facilities in Shawnee. If you think this could be an option for you, then please call Dr. Benson. Her telephone number is 214-810-3553. Her website is [www.paradigmfamilyhealth.com](http://www.paradigmfamilyhealth.com).

I sent out an email advising of the March 4 UT Arlington Powwow on short notice. I did see a few of you there. While attending, I met with the CEO of the Urban Inter-Tribal Center. They advised that they are working at getting a prescription drug facility added to their services. They hope to have that up and running in a few months. They also advised that the request sent to Congress for 2017 IHS funding will only increase about one percent. The CEO was a bit disappointed advising that the funding is well below the needs of the total IHS system in the US, but they will be getting their requests in to ensure they receive a fair share of whatever is made available.

While at this event, I met the last director of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Texas. She advised that she had heard there was a new organization like the chamber that is now closed being started up. I briefed her on where we stand with the creation of the Native American Business and Con-

tractor Association of Texas, or NABCAT, and asked that she have anyone asking for more information to contact me.

I attended the American Indian Heritage Day of Texas Ambassador planning meeting for the 2017 event. Part of the theme this year will be the seven generations and cradle board stories of the Plains nations. This event is always held the last Saturday of September at Lone Star Park. They have items for all ages, and you may want to mark your calendar for this event.

And, finally, I was a guest at the Cherokee Community of North Texas meeting, where I had the opportunity to briefly talk to their Principal Chief Bill John Baker who was there to give an annual Cherokee Nation briefing on the state of their businesses, and current upgrading of benefits and services. In my conversation, I was speaking to him about an area that CPN and the Five Civilized Tribes might work on to potentially benefit many Texas Native Americans. While there I also met with Shane Jett, the director of our Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation. He is Cherokee and is running on their election ballot to be a representative at large. There were several Cherokee members in attendance that I know who could benefit from the new-

ly formed NABCAT that I recently formed in concert with a friend who is Native and of lineage linking her to several other nations. Several of those I met advised they were interested and gave me business contacts.

April looks like a busy month with our meetings, and the April 15 federal IRS tax deadline. I hope to see many of you at one of our planned meetings. The focus will be to let you meet the candidates. I am extremely appreciative of the honor you bestowed upon me to have represented you this past four years. I have served in pride and hopefully have lived up to my promise to do my job. Ironically Cherokee Principal Chief Baker at the meeting I attended said what our jobs really are.

His words were, "My job is to make the lives of my Nations members better."

That is the same priority plan I will continue to pursue as I represent you!

*Migwetch,  
(Thank you)*

Bob Whistler  
*Bmashi* (He soars)  
Citizen Potawatomi Nation  
District 3 Representative  
112 Bedford Rd., Ste 116  
Bedford, TX 76022  
817-229-6271 Cell  
817-545-1597 Home  
[rwhistler@potawatomi.org](mailto:rwhistler@potawatomi.org)  
[cpn3legislator@yahoo.com](mailto:cpn3legislator@yahoo.com)

# RE-ELECT BOB WHISTLER FOR YOUR DISTRICT 3 REPRESENTATIVE

### AS A LEGISLATOR

- Served three years as a representative at large on the Bedford, Texas City Council
- Work very well with the Chairman and the other members of the full CPN legislative group the last four years and I urge you to vote for the Chairman and the other incumbents running for re-election
- Known for asking probing questions on various resolutions and the budget to ensure you get the best results
- Represented CPN as a delegate to the National Congress of American Indians, where at the 2016 convention I addressed the Congress and Indian Health Services asking for a Houston IHS facility

### IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Served as an Ambassador for American Indian Heritage Day of Texas where my participation in 2016 resulted in CPN being named the recognized Nation for the year
- Served as President on the Board of Directors of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce
- Currently creating the Native American Business and Contractor Association of Texas
- Support and work with Santa Fe Days in Carrollton and meet with other Native American tribal groups

### DURING MY 35 YEAR CAREER WITH AMERICAN AIRLINES

- Created, monitored, and controlled multi-million dollar budgets
- Customer Service, sales, and crisis management experience
- Designed corporate cargo marketing programs
- Known for being fair, consistent, and a team player

### BS IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION WITH A SCIENCE MINOR

As your representative, you can rely on me to seek out opportunities to bring more benefits and services to Texas. I am committed to finding new revenue sources for our Nation, and allowing our executive branch to run our nation to ensure our success. I am committed to be your loyal, ethical, hard working representative and am asking for your vote. My Potawatomi name is Bmashi which means "he soars". I intend to live up to that name in my legislative responsibilities and daily life as we continue our Nation's journey and progress into the future! Megwetch.





## District 4 - Jon Boursaw

**Meet the candidates District 4 meetings:** Chairman Barrett has scheduled two meetings in District 4 to provide the opportunity for members to meet the candidates in the upcoming legislative election. Lunch will be served at both meetings. The meeting dates and locations are:

- May 6, 2017 - 11:00am CPN Community Center Rossville
- May 7, 2017 - 1:00pm Mid-America All-Indian Center - Wichita

The candidates are:

For Tribal Chairman  
 • John A. "Rocky" Barrett  
 • Steve Castaneda

For District 4 Representative  
 • Jon Boursaw  
 • Theresa Adame

By now you should have re-

ceived the standard post card invitation with final details and information on how to RSVP your attendance. As of time of writing, Vice-Chairman Linda Capps plans to attend both meetings. In addition, Charles Clark, director of Tribal Rolls, will be at both meetings to assist in enrollment matters and issue new and replacement tribal cards. If you have not received the invitation cards you can RSVP by calling me at 1-785-861-7272 or reply by email to [jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org](mailto:jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org).

Small business development: Do you have that dream or desire to own your business?

Do you want to expand your current business or just invest needed funds into an existing business, but you didn't know where to go to get started with developing a business idea or how to apply for funding? That help may be closer than you think in District 4.

I have recently had the opportunity to sit down and talk with Mr. Karl Klein, director of the Washburn University Small Business Development Center, which is located in Topeka. For several years through the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corpo-

ration the Nation has assisted tribal members by making loans available to meet all of those dreams, needs and desires. But to do so members had to deal with reality that the CPCDC was located in Shawnee, Oklahoma. Tribal members can now receive that same assistance, whether it is counseling on how to create your own business or filling out the multi-page business plan and loan application forms. The CPCDC will still be involved in reviewing loan applications for approval on a case-by-case basis. The folks at the WUSBDC can help you with application process and there is no fee!

There is more. The WUSBDC now has copies of the same forms used by our CPCDC so you only need to complete one set.

But there is still more. For those tribal members who do not live close to Topeka, the WUSBDC through its affiliation with the Kansas Small Business Development Center offers this same assistance at every university, college or community college in Kansas. If you do seek the services of WUSBDC the first thing you need to do is to identify yourself as a Citizen Potawatomi member so

their staff will know to use the proper forms. For more information or to make an appointment you can call the center in Topeka at 785-234-3235 or visit them online at [www.washburnsmallbusiness.com](http://www.washburnsmallbusiness.com). The Topeka office is located at 120 SE 6th Ave, Suite 100. For information regarding the CPCDC call 405-878-4697 or Toll Free: 1-800-880-9880 or visit their web site at [www.cpcdc.org](http://www.cpcdc.org).

**Spring 2017 graduates:** In next month's May edition of the *Hownikan* the list of spring 2017 high school and college graduates will be announced. If you have anyone in your family who is graduating this spring please submit the following to [graduation@potawatomi.org](mailto:graduation@potawatomi.org), no later than April 15:

- Name:
- Hometown City/State:
- Potawatomi Family Name:
- School or institution:
- Degree:

**2017 re-election campaign:** During the past four years as your legislative representative, I have had the privilege to meet and assist many of you personally. I have greatly enjoyed the opportunity to meet with many of you at the numerous district meetings I have held across the state.

In addition, I've had the esteemed honor of being asked to create and give many their Indian names during our naming ceremonies. I have been able to develop relationships and friendships with so many of you that would not have been possible had I not been your elected representative. It is with sincere appreciation that I ask for your support to be selected as your representative for another four years. If the past is any indication, this will be a close election and I encourage you and your eligible family members to vote. If you have not received the request for ballot form in the mail from the CPN Election Committee, please contact me for assistance. Thank you for your continued support.

*Migwetch,*  
 (Thank you)

Jon Boursaw, *Wetase Mkoh*  
 Bourassa/Ogee  
 CPN District 4 Rep.  
 (O) 785-861-7272  
 (C) 785-608-1982  
 2007 SW Gage Blvd  
 Topeka, KS 66604  
[jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org](mailto:jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org)  
 Office Hours:  
 Tuesday 9-11 a.m.  
 Thursday 3-5 p.m.  
 Other times - Please call



## District 5 - Gene Lambert

It is election time for some of our leadership here at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. I would like to talk to you today about the importance in having your voice heard. No, it isn't my turn yet! That doesn't come until next year.

However, I do appreciate the honor of having served you for 19 years as regional director and the legislator for District 5 just the same. You can't say thank you enough. Remind your friends and relatives in other districts to vote if in attendance or send in their ballots if they will not be at the Family Reunion Festival.

We have over 32,000 members and such a small percentage vote and I hear the

reasons after the fact every time. Let's make this year different. Vote!

I think it is a bit like the advertisement of the lottery, "You can't win if you don't play."

You cannot be promised to keep your leadership if you do not vote.

It is such a small task to have the right people in place, yet so important to continue the past growth into the future. So Vote!

It isn't just about the Nation. It is about the city, county, state and federal as well. Always vote!

Our entire existence as a people - be it with the Citizen Potawatomi Nation or from your state - requires a small gesture on your part to keep us all involved regarding our own future.

Gather information about the candidates and make your informed choice.

The support you give now and the service you provide will affect your children and

grandchildren for years to come. We all care about the future yet respond lightly in our todays.

You work because if you didn't you would not be able to pay the mortgage or rent. Eating would become obsolete as there would be no way to either pay or time to shop or prepare. These are the basics of life according to Maslow's theory. Your vote makes a difference!

There is another significant saying by Hillel, "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? But if I am only for myself, who am I? If not now, when?" Ethics of the Fathers, 1:14.

Your vote counts!

So we each have a part from the view of the Creator, Mother Nature, and your own basic existence or conscience. Let's take care of each other and support those who take care of us.

You can contribute so easily. If you are not able to attend the Family Reunion Festival in June then you want to fill out your absentee ballot. Follow the directions care-

fully on the ballot and be sure to send it in time.

The honor of voting is unique to us. It would be a shame to lose that privilege simply because it was not utilized. See you at the polls.

On another note, just a reminder, our District 5 Meeting will be held in Tucson, Arizona this year. The date is Sunday, April 9, 2017 at the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum. The address is 2021 N. Kenny Rd. Tucson, Arizona 85743. Phone: 520-883-2702, in case you did not get your invitation.

Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett and Vice-Chairman Linda Capps will attend, lunch will be served and the meeting lasts from 1-5 p.m.

The timing should work out well for those of you who want to attend church or other early Sunday commitments.

I am excited to be in Tucson this year as it will be the first as long as I have been in office.

Chairman Barrett has served and been on the Native Na-

tions Institute for the last 14 years and completes his meeting there on the same day. We are all so proud of his contributions to all the Native Nations as well.

It will be exciting to see some of the special displays at the Museum, hear the latest regarding the Native Nations and news of back home from chairman and visit family as well.

So unlike last year when we were bombarded by rain, lightning and thunder, there will be great food and weather no doubt. We will be inside!

What a fabulous day to meet with you all again. You can RSVP to me at 480-228-6569 or Jamie Moucka 1800-880-9880.

See you all there!

*Migwetch,*  
 (Thank you)

Eunice Imogene Lambert  
 Gene Lambert  
 Legislator District 05  
 480-228-6569  
 P.O. Box 5905  
 Mesa, Arizona 85211  
[euniceilambert@gmail.com](mailto:euniceilambert@gmail.com)



Bozho nikanek,  
(Hello my friends)

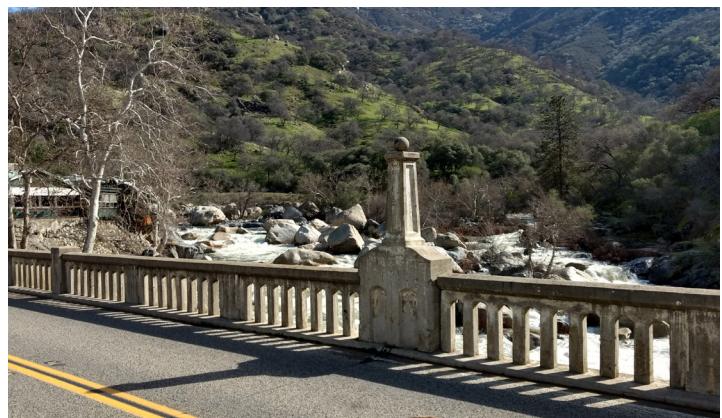
Hallelujah let it rain! While I am very thankful for every drop of this winter's precipitation, I am a bit confused. Wasn't last year supposed to be El Nino and well above average rainfall? Maybe El Nino isn't the grand-daddy of wet weather patterns it's cracked up to be. Most of California has seen record or near record rainfall this

## District 6 - Rande K. Payne

season as compared to barely above average by this time last year. And if Punxsutawney Phil is accurate in his Groundhog Day prediction of six more weeks of winter, California's water woes should be greatly improved. I would like to give thanks to our Creator for giving us such bountiful rainfall. The earth here is no longer scorched and dry but green and lush!

I would like to remind anyone of college age that applications can be submitted through April 15 for the Potawatomi Leadership Program. The six-week Potawatomi Leadership Program brings a group of 8-10 promising young tribal members from around the world to Shawnee, Oklahoma to learn about the government, culture, and economic development of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. At its core, the Potawatomi Leadership Program strives to give interns an accurate perception of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation as a whole and cultivate talent from within to ensure that younger generations are prepared for a role in the future governance of their tribe. To be eligible for the PLP, students must have at least a 3.0 GPA, be 18-20 years old by the program's start date, and have not completed more than one year of college. For more information please visit: <https://plpapp.potawatomi.org/> or contact CPN Education Director Tlesia Zientek at [tesia.zientek@potawatomi.org](mailto:tesia.zientek@potawatomi.org). This year, the program will run from June 16 to July 29.

In case you haven't heard, this year's Gathering of Potawatomi Nations is being hosted by Walpole Island First Nation in Wallaceburg, Ontario, Canada August 2-5. If you've ever been to one of the Gatherings then you know how fun and meaningful they can be. If you are considering making the



Some of the California rain in the river.

trip to Canada this year, now would be the time to make sure your passport is in good order. The CPN website contains many useful links to information about the gathering and obtaining a passport. <http://cpn.news/prepareforGPN17>

I want to thank Representative Lisa Kraft for her beautiful February column. My heart was touched by her great love and respect for her father. In his passing and in her time of sorrow Lisa's fullness of joy and gratitude for the many blessings in her life moved me to tears. I'm grateful for the many blessings in my life and count Lisa as one of them.

It is my great honor and I thank you for the privilege

to serve as your representative. Please feel free to contact me regarding anything Potawatomi.

Wisdom from the Word: "Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." 1 Corinthians 13: 6-7

Bama pi,  
(Later)

Rande K. Payne  
*Mnedo Gabo*  
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The Three Rivers area was gorged with rainfall.

## District 8 - Dave Carney



Bozho nikanek,  
(Hello my friends)

For those of you on my email list, you know that there will be a mid-day meeting June 3 in Vancouver, Washington hosted by the executive branch of our government. So in other words, the chairman, vice-chairperson and secretary-treasurer will be there – it won't just be me. There will be postcards coming out shortly with more details and there is one included on page 16 of this *Hownikan*.

Please mark your calendars and let's have a good turnout.

If you would like to receive information directly from me, please contact me via my email address below. As a side note, many members don't realize how seriously the Nation takes their privacy and personal information. Contact info and demographics are not shared with the legislators (or between legislators). If you have provided your contact information to me, I will not share it with anyone unless you directly ask me to.

In addition to the executive branch providing a high level overview of tribal activities, it is also an election year for the position of tribal chairman. Chairman Barrett has drawn a challenger named Steve Castaneda who

was born in Wapato, Washington but currently resides in Shawnee, Oklahoma. No word yet as to whether Mr. Castaneda will come to the June meeting.

During the Family Festival this June, in addition to this important race, District 8 members will be asked to vote on the annual budget. Members over the age of 18 should be receiving their request for absentee ballot in the mail. If you have not, I'd suggest you contact the election committee and request yours as soon as possible. This is one of the reasons it is so important for tribal rolls to have your current mailing address. If you plan on coming to the Festival, you should vote in person. The dates of the Family Festival are June 23-25. Voting starts early on the June 24 and re-

sults (both live and absentee) are announced at the 3 p.m. general council meeting.

This year, the honored families will be: Bourassa, Burnett, Melot, Navarre, Peltier, Wamego, Willmet and Vieux. These are some of the larger family trees and they should be well attended. Last year, my family, the Juneaus, were honored. For fun, we had made up matching t-shirts with images of Solomon, Josette and Narcisse Juneau. If this is your family's year, you could consider creating a design and having Fire-Lake Designs print them up for you. Visit their page at [www.firelakedesigns.com](http://www.firelakedesigns.com).

In December my oldest child, Nicholas, graduated from the University of Washington with a bachelor of science degree in computer sci-

ence. In August, my second son, Luke, will be entering Washington State University in Pullman, Washington as a freshman. I am extremely proud of them and extremely grateful to the Nation for the scholarship money that that has been available to them.

I am currently making plans for a Naming ceremony in Spring, either in northern Oregon or the Olympia area, just because it is between Seattle and Portland. If you are interested in receiving your "Indian name" and this time-frame and location could work for you, I'd like to hear from you.

Bama pi,  
(Later)

Dave Carney/*Kagasghi*  
[dcarney@potawatomi.org](mailto:dcarney@potawatomi.org)  
360-259-4027

## UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION WITH TRIBAL ROLLS

Is your address information updated with CPN Tribal Rolls? In the next year, the tribal government will examine population numbers across the U.S. for legislative redistricting. It is vital that we have your most up-to-date address information.



Please contact tribal rolls today and update your address information by calling (800) 880-9880.

## Sandra Sue Tyner Bohuslavicky Cordell



Sandra Sue Tyner Bohuslavicky Cordell passed away Feb. 25, 2017.

She was born on Nov. 22, 1941 in Pawhuska Oklahoma to Fred and Rosetta Tyner.

She was deeply loved by her three children, Deborah Leichliter, Robert Bohuslavicky and Patricia Bonar. She was lovingly referred to as Mom-Mom or Mimi by her grandchildren, Kelli Adams, Todd Leichliter, Melissa Melnar, Jaymes Bonar, Cheyana Leichliter, Hunter Leichliter and her great-grandchildren, Chase Evans, Wyatt Evans, Kristopher Adams, Madison Melnar and Macy Melnar.

Sandra was proceeded in death by her brothers: James Tyner and Fred Tyner. She also leaves behind her brothers: Ken, John, Frank and Terry.

Sandra called Houston, Texas her home for most of her adult life.

She was loved by many and will be missed...

## Dorothy Mae Spencer



Dorothy "Dot" Mae Spencer, 90, of Rocky Ford passed away on Feb. 20, 2017 at the Arkansas Valley Regional Medical Center in La Junta. She was born on Aug. 13, 1926 in Rossville, Kansas to Lewis Vandiver & Estella Myrtle (Stamp) Burns. She married Delbert Kay "DK" Spencer on Feb. 29, 1948 in Raton, New Mexico; he preceded her in death on Nov. 4, 2015.

Dot was very active in archery in her younger years. Dot taught square dancing for several decades. They were known as Dots & Dels. She also was a scout leader in Rocky Ford; she received the "silver fawn" award in scouting. She also was a substitute teacher. She loved her family dearly, and going fishing. In her spare time she would volunteer for the Salvation Army and the food bank and meals

on wheels. She was an avid Denver Broncos fan.

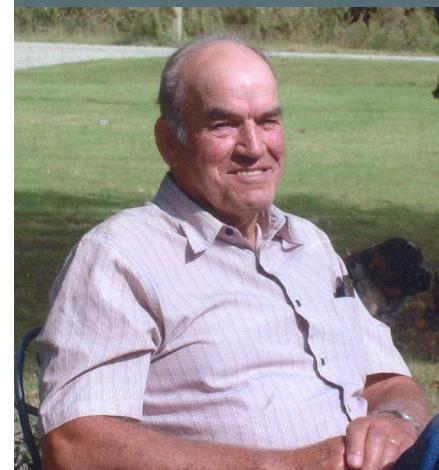
Dot is survived by her children: Joe Spencer of Charleston, South Carolina, Susie Spencer of Rocky Ford; three grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; her brother: Edwin Burns of Rocky Ford; also survived by her nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, brother-in-law: JB Spencer and daughter-in-law: Elisabeth Spencer.

A memorial service was held on March 4, 2017 at the First Baptist Church in Rocky Ford with Pastor Aaron Lockhart officiating.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Salvation Army, 2639 Elizabeth, Pueblo, CO 81004 direct or through the funeral home.

Online condolences may be made at [www.PeacockFH.com](http://www.PeacockFH.com). Peacock-Larsen Funeral Home & Arkansas Valley Crematory were in charge of arrangements.

## Charles Martin



Charles "Charlie" Martin, 88, of Silver Lake, passed away peacefully in his sleep on Friday, Feb. 10, 2017. He was born Dec. 11, 1928, on a farm in Willard, Kansas, one of ten children of Henry Martin and Edith Burns. He attended Rossville High School.

Charlie worked on the family farm and retired from Goodyear after 37 years. He was a navy veteran, a member of the American Legion and the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and enjoyed many outdoor activities. In the early days he coached the girls softball teams, enjoyed fishing, camping and skiing at the lakes. He so enjoyed being with his family, playing cards, and watching grandkids sports.

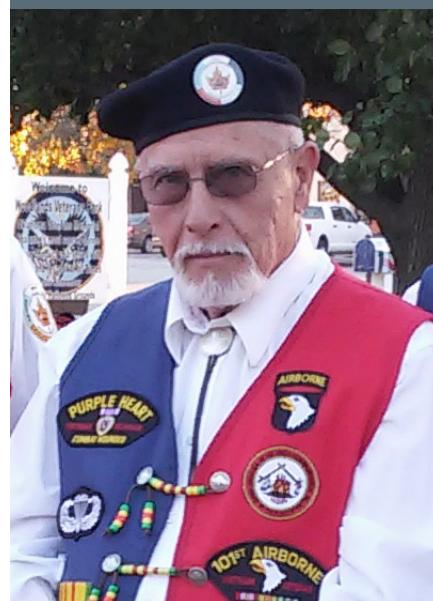
On Aug. 30, 1951, Charlie married Mary Krasny in Topeka. She survives of the home.

Other survivors include his sister: Betty Gibson; his four "girls": Peggy (Joe) Pistora, Karen (Terry) Hay, Diane (Ron) Martinek and Nancy (Bob) Pfaffenstiel; ten grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. He was a devoted husband and father, and excelled at being a grandfather.

A Celebration of Life Ceremony was held on Feb. 13, 2017 at Piper Funeral Home in St. Marys. Inurnment was at a later date in the Prairie Home Cemetery, Topeka.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Silver Lake Senior Center or Midland Hospice and sent in care of Piper Funeral Home, 714 Maple St., St. Marys, Kansas 66536.

## Robert Wayne Barrett



Robert Wayne Barrett age 72 left this world for a better one on March 8, 2016 with his wife and daughter and family and friends at his side.

Robert was born on June 6, 1944 (D-Day) to Isabelle and Bob Barrett. He was raised in the Tecumseh, Oklahoma area and graduated from Tecumseh High School in 1962.

Robert was a Vietnam combat veteran serving in the Army 101st Airborne. During his service he received several Purple Hearts along with Marksman's Medals.

He married Janis Sue Arrasmith in 1969. Robert worked at the University of Oklahoma before going into the service. Then after service at Tinker air force base until his retirement in 1999 with 33+ years. During the time of being employed by Tinker he pursued having a side business of

Barrett Small Engine repairs and obtaining a certificate of being a certified physical therapist in sports medicine. He also worked for Lowes for a short period after his retirement.

Robert was a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church and was active until his illness. He was proud of his Indian heritage being from the Bourassa family with the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. He was a charter member of the CPN Veteran Organization and was involved with their Color Guard. Robert was given his Indian name (*Wishkmendo*) which means Strong Spirit by his CPN Legislator brother David Barrett and Vice-Chairman Capps.

Robert was preceded in death by his parents Isabelle L. (Robnett) and Robert William Barrett and younger brother Wallace Paul Barrett. Survivors include his wife Sue of 47 years and daughter Michelle and son-in-law Chad O'Neal, grandson Rand Alan and granddaughter Kori Payton O'Neal. Brother and sister-in-law David and Connie Barrett from Shawnee and sister-in-law Mary Barrett from Pennsylvania.

Robert enjoyed working on small engines (sometimes bypassing ordering the high costly parts to repair and by jury rigging it to keep it going) and telling people about the Lord. He will be missed by the Family and Friends. His request of having no funeral and being cremated was honored by the family. He looked at death as "Graduation" and onto another journey. His words were "if you know my Jesus, you will see me again."



Hau ndenwémagnek  
Ho my relatives

Ébyé yak shote gnom  
We have come here today

Éwi nesh myé yak ode wdenwéma  
To lay our brother to rest

Ngom she épam sét ode  
Today he walks

Ga wje zhyé wat gi gambojek  
Among those who have passed on

I yé i ébgédnoyak ode ngemwen  
That is why we offer this song

Émno shketot wa je zhyat ibe shpemsegok  
That his journey will go well where  
he goes above

Iw énaj moyan  
That's all I have to say

A Potawatomi prayer for a specific loved one who has walked on.

By Don Perrot

# WALKING ON

Laura Oakes



Laura Oakes of Shawnee passed on to heaven on Jan. 24, 2017 at the age of 89. Services were held Jan. 27, at Walker Funeral Home Chapel with her cousin, Noel Greenwalt, officiating. Burial was at Resthaven Memorial Park.

Laura was born on February 9, 1927 in Wanette to Eric Bruce Hardin and Blanche (Bergeron) Hardin. She attended schools in Adell, Wanette and Shawnee. She graduated from Shawnee High School in 1945. After graduation, she worked at Tinker Field until the war ended. She worked at the Shawnee Garment Factory and Sylvania.

On December 18 1953, she married Jack Oakes. He preceded her in death in 2007. She was a homemaker and lived in Pottawatomie County almost all her life. She was a longtime member of Immanuel Baptist Church where she taught Sunday school, Vacation Bible School and was active in the Quilting Group and TNTs. She loved quilting and crocheting and was still crocheting hats for babies at Shawnee Hospital until her death.

In November 2013, Laura moved into Brookdale Assisted Living. The staff and residents became an extension of her family. Her family is very appreciative of the care she received at Brookdale. The CPN Senior Support Network was very helpful in the past few years.

Survivors include her three daughters: Nancy Morris and husband Terry of Shawnee, Jackie Davis and husband Rick of Oklahoma City and Gala Damato and husband Kevin of Yorktown, Virginia; four grandchildren: April VanAntwerp and husband Mike of Shawnee, Brandi Abbott and husband Brian of Shawnee, Kelly Damato of Fairfax, Virginia and Chris Damato of Radford, Virginia; five great-grandchildren: Emily and Riley Abbott, Lydia, Olivia and Jack VanAntwerp; many nieces, nephews, cousins, other family and friends. She was a Citizen Potawatomi Nation member of the Bergeron family.

## Submitting obituaries

To submit an obituary, please send a word document with **no more than 300 words**, a 300dpi photo and a contact phone number to:

hownikan@potawatomi.org

Mary Alice Hedrick



Mary Alice Hedrick was born on Sept. 16, 1932. On Feb. 3, 2017, at a young 84 years of age, she fulfilled her journey on this earth and went to see Jesus.

Mary Alice is the daughter of Harrison and Alice Vaught. Her family lived between Borger and Panhandle, Texas, on the Four Sixes Ranch, where her daddy was the general foreman. All her wonderful childhood memories are with her family and time spent on the ranch. She rode on the school bus each day to Panhandle and graduated from Panhandle High School in 1950. Mary Alice shared wonderful stories of traveling to Amarillo with friends and family and the fun they had growing up.

In 1953, she met the love of her life, Wayne Hedrick. He was working in Borger at Plains Creamery and hired her as his secretary. They were married on Memorial Day in 1954. Their marriage lasted for more than 62 wonderful years.

Mary Alice had a wonderful life that was full of excitement and travel. She and her husband were in the automobile business for more than 30 years. Prior, she was an executive secretary in the law department for Santa Fe Railroad for more than 10 years. She was fortunate to travel and shop all over the world. Mary Alice obtained her certification in Interior Design. Her love for interior design and shopping was definitely apparent in her personal style and in that of her homes. Nothing could light up her smile quicker than going shopping or her grandchildren.

Mary Alice was a faithful member of The Church at Quail Creek. She was very involved in the women's bible study and assisted in all aspects of decorating the church. Mary Alice's abilities and devotion for the church will be greatly missed.

She was known as Mary Alice, Mom, and her favorite name, Mimi.

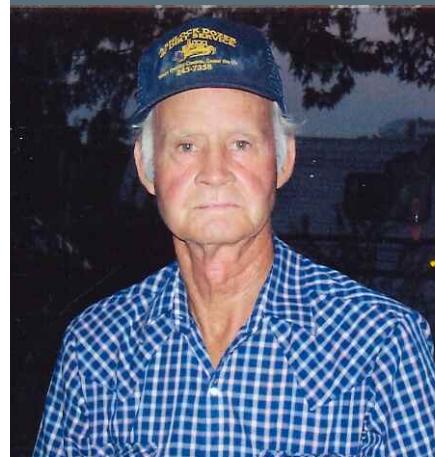
Preceding her to Heaven is both parents; two sisters: Katherine and

Nanette; and her precious daughter: Debby Hedrick-Hardy.

Left behind is her husband: Wayne; and her daughter: Terri Stavenhagen along with her son in law, Steve Stavenhagen. Mary Alice has four grandchildren: April Farley-Snavely, Cory (Stephanie) Farley, Shayne (Tiffany) Stavenhagen and Scott (Shay) Stavenhagen. Along with being blessed with her grandchildren and their spouses, she has nine great-grandchildren: Matthew, Seth, Jacob, Shelton, Stetson, Eli, Sloan, Slayton and Emma.

Mary Alice/Mom/Mimi is going to be dearly missed, but rejoicing in Heaven with Our Lord! Praise the Lord. Hallelujah!

Charles Ray Anderson



Charles Ray Anderson, 76, passed away Jan. 16, 2017 at home with family at his side in Sand Springs, Oklahoma.

He was born Sept. 10, 1940 in Lyman, Oklahoma to Charles Thomas and Delpha Nadine (Clark) Anderson. On Sept. 2, 1958, Charles married his high school sweetheart, the love of his life.

Charles was a dozer operator, welder, carpenter, rock mason, hay baler and mechanic. He was a deer hunter and general outdoorsman that enjoyed hunting and fishing and attending family outings.

Charles was a hard-working man, loving husband, dad, grandpa and great-grandpa. He was our rock and hero. He will be missed by a host of relatives, cousins, dear friends and his pets: Gus, Gabe, Benny, Peppy Rose (our pet skunk) and his mule.

He is survived by his wife: Billie Anderson; children: Sheryll Anderson, Karen Anderson, and Bill Anderson; grandchildren: Robert Fenimore, Eric Fenimore, Gary Mead and Michelle Ashlock; great-grandchildren: Sabree, Gunner, Tabor, Zayden and Julian; sisters: Denese (Anderson) Bower and husband Terry of Cleveland and Annette Moler of Jennings; brothers: Donnie Anderson and wife Beverly of Jennings, Eddie Ander-

son of Terlton and Russell Anderson of Jennings; and many other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents: Charles and Delpha Anderson; and two small brothers.

A memorial service was held on Jan. 19, 2017 in Sperry, Oklahoma. He was laid to rest at Osage Gardens Cemetery in Skiatook, Oklahoma.

Donald Allen Adams



Donald Allen Adams, age 87, resident of Ft. Scott, Kansas, died Saturday, Jan. 14, 2017, at Guest Home Estates in Ft. Scott. He was born Dec. 11, 1929, in Barton County, Missouri, the son of Paul and Mary Brooks Adams. He graduated from Nevada High School with the class of 1948. He served in the U. S. Marines during the Korean War.

He married Dorothy Ann Pulliam on Aug. 30, 1957, in Nevada, Missouri. She preceded him in death on Jan. 23, 2008. They both worked together for over 40 years as independent carpet layers in the area. Don enjoyed working with cattle on their farm. He was a member of the Garland Masonic Lodge and the Fort Scott Scottish Rite. He attended the Grace Baptist Tabernacle.

Survivors include his son: Tim and wife Andrea, Deerfield, Missouri; three sisters: Joan Imel, Twin Falls, Idaho, Elaine Shindler and husband Ernest, Columbia, Missouri, and Janice Almquist and husband Gary, Nevada; one grandchild: Donald Adams; two step-grandchildren: Jenny and Aaron Emery; and numerous nieces and nephews. Besides his wife, he was preceded in death by a sister: June Adams; and his parents.

Pastor Gary Almquist conducted funeral services Jan. 20, 2016, at the Cheney Witt Chapel. Burial followed in the Memory Gardens Cemetery.

Memorials are suggested to the Alzheimer's Association and may be left in care of the Cheney Witt Chapel, PO Box 347, 201 S. Main, Ft. Scott, Kansas 66701.

## CPN burial assistance through Tribal Rolls

The \$2,000 CPN Burial Assistance Fund is automatically available to all enrolled CPN members. You may fill out a burial assistance fund form if you would like for us to keep it on file in case of any change in resolutions.

Please note: Once a CPN Tribal member has passed, the Tribal Rolls office must

be notified in order for CPN to provide burial funding. Information and instructions for the burial process will be sent to the next of kin and will be discussed then.

For more information please call Tribal Rolls at 405-878-5835 or email [cclark@potawatomi.org](mailto:cclark@potawatomi.org).